APRIL 1956 VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 4

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW

- *Expenditures*
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FHA MULTIFAMILY HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

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The printing of this publication was approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget (December 16, 1954).

At a Glance

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN MARCH--Outlays for new construction expanded seasonally in March to almost $3.0 billion, bringing the 1956 first-quarter total to $8.5 billion. Both these figures equaled peaks set last year for March and the first quarter. The March 1956 rise in total expenditures (10 percent) reflected increased activity in nearly all types of construction, with particular strength shown in private industrial plant and store building. Private outlays for new housing rose about as much as usual for the month, and though this category was 6 percent below last year's high March figure, it exceeded March volume for all other years. Public spending was at a March record for highways, schools, and sewer and water work.

HOUSING STARTS IN FEBRUARY--Nonfarm housing starts advanced seasonally in February to 78,000, with conventionally financed projects accounting for almost all the 5-percent rise from January. Total privately owned units begun in February were at an annual rate (seasonally adjusted) of 1,200,000--higher than any February rate except in 1950 and 1955.

FHA-VA ACTIVITY IN FEBRUARY--New housing begun under VA programs declined in February for the fourth consecutive month, and FHA starts volume rose only slightly, after a 5-month decline. However, February showed a relatively strong gain, as in January, in both FHA applications and VA appraisal requests for new home loans--indicating a rise in FHA-VA starts volume in future months. Preliminary reports show that the increase in FHA applications was the sharpest February advance in 3 years, and VA appraisal requests in both January and February were exceeded only in 1955.

NONFARM MORTGAGE RECORDINGS IN JANUARY--Although the dollar volume of nonfarm mortgage recordings declined in January, for the fifth successive month, the 6-percent reduction from December was smaller than usual for the period. The January 1956 total ($2.1 billion) was 2-percent above a year earlier--reflecting higher lending volume this January for individuals and commercial banks, and to a lesser degree for mutual savings banks. Both savings and loan associations and insurance companies registered an over-the-year decline.

BUILDING PERMITS IN FEBRUARY--The building-permit valuation total showed the same relative gain in February (9 percent) as in January. Although the January rise reflected permit valuation increases for almost all major types of building construction, the February advance (to $1.3 billion) came mostly from an upsurge in permit issuance for new dwelling units. This category (which excludes permit valuations of new nonhousekeeping buildings) almost equaled the high dwelling-unit valuation figure for February 1955. Total permit valuations this February continued above the year-ago level for the second successive month, and for the first 2 months combined, 1956 volume was about 4 percent higher than in 1955--with industrial plant and office building showing the greatest relative gains.

PUBLIC CONTRACT AWARDS IN JANUARY--After a sharp rise in December, the value of public contract awards declined as is customary in January, by about 14 percent to $806 million. Although many types of public work shared in this decline, there were some important increases, particularly in awards for hospitals, sewerage systems, conservation and development work, and for federally aided State highway systems. Altogether, public construction awards this January totaled 54 percent above the January 1955 figure--reflecting over-the-year gains in almost all types of State and local work, and in Federal awards for conservation, troop housing, industrial plant, and electric power utilities.

CONTRACT AWARDS IN 37 EASTERN STATES IN FEBRUARY--The value of construction contracts awarded in the 37 States east of the Rocky Mountains in February was virtually the same as in January at $1.9 billion. This figure establishes a new record for the month of February, exceeding the previous high level set last year by 18 percent. Continuing the trend of recent months, engineering construction showed

the greatest gain over the previous year with a 70-percent increase for utilities and a 36-percent increase for public works. Although the gain in residential building was much smaller, the award total for this category was 7 percent above the exceptionally high February 1955 figure. For the first 2 months of 1956, the total of all awards was about a fifth greater than for the comparable 1955 period, reflecting an 11-percent increase for building and a 69-percent increase for engineering types.

CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN FEBRUARY--Construction costs continued to rise fractionally in February, according to the Department of Commerce Composite Index, to a new record level of 128.5 percent of the 1947-49 average. This continuation of the almost steady advance that began about mid-1954 brought the February 1956 index to 5 percent above the previous February. The index rose a little more this January and February than in the latter part of 1955, and in February was 1.2 percent above December. The overall rise from February 1955, and from this past December, reflected increased costs for all kinds of construction.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS IN FEBRUARY--Wholesale prices were relatively stable for many building materials items in February, when the overall index rose slightly to 129.7. The January-February advance chiefly reflected increases of about 2 percent for paint materials and prepared paint, as well as smaller rises for southern pine lumber and other softwoods. Increases were noted also for asbestos shingles and for several other nonmetallic mineral products. Prices declined fractionally for Douglas fir lumber and doors, and for some heating equipment items.

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS OUTPUT IN JANUARY--Iron and steel products continued to dominate the materials output picture in January by showing a larger over-the-year increase (31 percent) than any other major construction material. Other significant increases over last year were shown for clay construction products (19 percent) and paint, varnish, and lacquer (16 percent). Output indexes were at new January peaks for iron and steel products, clay construction products, and lumber and wood products. Although Portland cement showed the normal seasonal decline from December (down 7 percent), it too was at a record January level. Heating and plumbing equipment showed a larger increase over December (18 percent) than any other material. Fourth-quarter gypsum production in 1955 set a new record for any quarter, at 185.4 percent of the 1947-49 average.

CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT IN FEBRUARY--Preliminary reports indicate that February employment on contract construction declined seasonally to 2,217,000--about 50,000 above the February 1955 figure. State and area data available through January show that in a large majority of both States and areas the contract construction employment level was higher this January than a year ago.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN JANUARY--Average hourly earnings on contract construction rose in January (by 2 cents to $2.68), but a seasonal shortening of the workweek (less 0.7 hour to 36 hours) caused weekly pay to decline by $1.14 to $96.48. The decrease in weekly hours and weekly pay occurred on almost all types of contract construction. Compared with January 1955, average weekly and hourly earnings were higher this past January by $4.79 and 9 cents, respectively, and the workweek averaged 0.6 hour more.

APPRENTICES IN BUILDING TRADES, 4TH QUARTER 1955--The number of registered apprentices in the building trades increased throughout 1955 to more than 100,000 at the end of the fourth quarter--a fifth more than the 1954 year-end total. The 1954-55 gains were countrywide, except for small declines noted in preliminary reports from South Carolina and Wyoming. In all of the major trades more apprentices were registered at the end of 1955 than a year earlier, with the largest rate of expansion in the painting and paperhanging, carpentry, and trowel trades. For the 3 years 1953-55, building trades apprentices accounted for about 57 percent of total registered apprentices in all occupations, compared with a 50-percent ratio in 1949-50.

Characteristics of FHA Multifamily Housing, 1949 and 1953-54

BOYD A. MARSHALL AND HERBERT SHAPIRO*

The Federal Housing Administration had a major role in facilitating construction of privately owned multifamily housing during 1949-54 when nearly 458,000 dwelling units in FHA-approved rental and cooperatively owned projects were started. Of these, 337,000 units were in elevator or walkup buildings and probably represented more than half of the national total of such privately financed units started during this 6-year period.[1] However, the FHA proportion dropped from an estimated two-thirds of the 1949-51 total to about a fourth during 1952-54. This article[2] discusses some of the basic characteristics of the new elevator and walkup apartments approved for FHA insurance in three selected years--1949, 1953, and 1954.

The FHA postwar programs for the insurance of mortgages on rental and cooperative projects were designed primarily to provide housing for veterans and for military and civilian personnel on or near military reservations, Atomic Energy installations, or critical defense areas. From 1949 through 1953, the majority of the FHA-approved multifamily rental units were in walkup structures, although the proportion of units in such structures dropped significantly after 1949. Rental projects with elevators, which increased in relative importance in 1953 and 1954, were concentrated largely in the metropolitan areas of New York City, Washington, D. C., and Chicago in 1949, and in the New York City area in 1953 and 1954. Management-type cooperatives[3] were located almost exclusively in the New York City area and were predominantly of the elevator type.

In each of the years discussed here, elevator projects--whether in rental or cooperative developments--had more apartments per project but fewer rooms per apartment than walkup projects. Typically, the number of rooms in both elevator and walkup projects was greater in cooperative apartments than in rental units, although the room count of the latter tended to increase between 1949 and 1954. Rents also rose over this period and were consistently higher for rental units in elevator than in walkup projects.[4]

Programs in Operation, 1949-54

By far the largest number of units in elevator and walkup projects approved for FHA insurance between 1949 and 1954 were under Section 608, introduced originally in the National Housing Act during the war housing program. The legislative authority for accepting new construction applications under this program, which included virtually all rental projects approved in 1949, terminated in the spring of 1950. Substantial construction activity under this program continued into 1952, however. The majority of the Section 608 projects involved garden-type developments in which walkup apartments predominated (table 1).

FHA's regular long-term rental housing program, authorized under Section 207, accounted for the largest number of apartments approved for insurance in 1953 and 1954. Only a relatively small proportion of the units approved for insurance under the military housing program (Section 803, enacted in

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* Of the Operating Statistics Section, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Housing Administration.

1 The proportion of the national total of multifamily units represented by FHA projects cannot be determined precisely. It is believed that the national total of 676,000 privately owned units started in 3-or-more family structures during the 1949-54 period most nearly approximates the total volume of multifamily units for purposes of this comparison.

2 For a similar analysis of 1-family houses, see Characteristics of 1-Family Houses with FHA Mortgages, 1949-54. (*In* Construction Review, November 1955.)

3 See table 1, footnote 3.

4 Figures below and in subsequent tables cover only elevator and walkup projects for which characteristics data were available; they represent from 90 to 100 percent of the total number of such units approved for insurance in the years indicated.

	Dwelling units in--			
	Rental projects		*Cooperative projects*	
	Elevator	*Walkup*	*Elevator*	*Walkup*
1949	42,600	92,900	--	--
1953	10,200	13,400	4,100	900
1954	7,900	6,400	2,200	400

Because of the relatively small volume of FHA project operations in 1953-54, it is considered inadvisable to draw conclusions on characteristics nationally on the basis of FHA experience.

August 1949) were in apartment projects. The more spacious single-family houses predominated in this program because this legislation--popularly referred to as the Wherry Act--was to provide rental housing on or near military reservations or at Atomic Energy installations, where neither the availability nor cost of land was a problem.

The remaining rental units approved in 1953 and 1954 were under Section 908. This section was enacted in September 1951 to stimulate construction of rental housing in areas where the expansion of defense activities after the Korean outbreak caused critical shortages of housing for defense workers. Very few units were approved under this program after 1953, and the program was virtually suspended in August 1954.

The proportions of elevator and walkup apartments authorized under the various FHA rental housing programs are as follows:

	Percent of units in--					
	Elevator structures			*Walkup structures*		
	1954	*1953*	*1949*	*1954*	*1953*	*1949*
All sections	100	100	100	100	100	100
Section 207	100	95	--	89	37	--
Section 608	--	--	100	--	--	100
Section 803	--	2	--	10	38	--
Section 908	--	3	--	1	25	--

In addition to insuring mortgages on rental housing projects, FHA was authorized under Section 213 to encourage participation and cooperation of builders in the development and construction of projects for independently sponsored and organized consumer cooperative corporations.[5] About 6 percent of the elevator and walkup apartments approved by the FHA during 1949-54 were in Section 213 management-type cooperative projects.

TABLE 1.--DWELLING UNITS IN NEW RENTAL AND COOPERATIVE PROJECTS[1] APPROVED FOR FHA INSURANCE, BY TYPE OF STRUCTURE, 1949 AND 1953-54

Predominant type of structure	Percent distribution of units		
	1954	1953	1949
	Rental projects[2]		
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elevator structures	44.4	30.0	26.7
Walkup structures	35.8	39.4	58.2
1-family houses	19.8	30.6	15.1
	Management-type cooperative projects[3]		
Total	100.0	100.0	--
Elevator structures	77.7	77.1	--
Walkup structures	15.3	17.8	--
1-family houses	7.0	5.1	--

[1] An FHA project consists of a structure or structures on one site providing living accommodations for 8 or more families. The structures may be detached, semidetached, or row 1-family houses (separated by party walls), or multifamily buildings. The latter include elevator apartments and walkups (i.e., buildings of 2 or more stories with each complete dwelling usually located on 1 floor and with stairway access to dwellings on the upper floors). Each project is covered by a single mortgage though contiguous projects may comprise one larger, overall development.

[2] Projects in which dwelling units are rented to tenants. Data based on commitments issued for mortgage insurance on new privately financed projects authorized by the National Housing Act: in 1949, under Section 608; and in 1953-54, under Sections 207, 803, and 908.

[3] Projects in which the cooperator purchases a membership in the cooperative organization, which conveys the right to occupy an apartment. This program was authorized by Section 213 (enacted April 20, 1950). Data are not available for the relatively few cooperative projects approved during 1949 under other sections of the National Housing Act.

Type of Structure

In FHA rental projects approved for insurance from 1949 through 1953, units in walkups outnumbered those in elevator buildings. This reflects the demand of the newly formed families of the postwar period for basic but comfortable housing at reasonable rents--best met by walkup apartments in

[5] Excluded from this study are data based on the Section 213 sales-type cooperative projects. The primary purpose of such a cooperative is to construct 1-family homes, which on completion are sold to the participating members. After the homes are transferred to the individual owners, the realty functions of the cooperative organization end.

garden-type developments which are usually found in outlying neighborhoods of cities. As single-family housing became more plentiful and the demand for garden-type apartments was substantially satisfied, the proportion of all rental units in walkup structures dropped markedly--from nearly 60 percent in 1949 to 40 percent in 1953 and 36 percent in 1954 (table 1). At the same time, builders turned to the market for more luxurious apartments located nearer the center of town. This resulted in a shift to elevator apartments--the proportion of these units increasing from 27 percent of the FHA total in 1949 to 44 percent in 1954.

On the other hand, elevator structures have predominated in the FHA cooperative management-type projects since the inception of the Section 213 program. More than 3 of every 4 dwelling units in projects approved under this program during 1953-54 were in elevator buildings. This reflects the location of the majority of the FHA management-type cooperative projects in the New York metropolitan area, the scarcity and high cost of land in the sites selected by the cooperative organizations, and the efficient land utilization afforded by elevator structures.

Size of Project

Elevator projects generally had more units than walkup projects in both rental and cooperative developments approved in 1949, 1953, and 1954 (table 2). More than half of the rental apartments in elevator buildings each year were in projects with 200 or more units, and of these, a large proportion were in projects with a minimum of 500 units. The great majority of the walkup apartments were in projects with fewer than 200 units, although some were in developments with 500 or more units. A similar relationship between elevator and walkup projects was evident in cooperatively owned developments. None of the cooperative projects had as many as 500 apartments, however.

TABLE 2.--NUMBER OF UNITS IN NEW ELEVATOR AND WALKUP PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FHA INSURANCE, 1949 AND 1953-54

Number of units per project	Elevator structure			Walkup structure		
	1954	1953	1949	1954	1953	1949
	Rental projects: percent distribution of units					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than 25 units	--	--	.1	7.3	3.4	9.8
25 to 49 units	2.8	2.1	2.7	9.8	6.2	12.0
50 to 99 units	9.8	8.2	18.4	17.1	15.3	14.1
100 to 149 units	13.3	12.3	13.8	12.5	18.0	15.8
150 to 199 units	18.0	5.1	13.0	26.3	17.1	10.2
200 to 299 units	16.7	23.8	20.1	6.4	15.9	19.9
300 to 399 units	12.9	9.6	9.8	4.8	2.4	8.6
400 to 499 units	5.3	17.2	9.4	--	13.3	6.7
500 or more units	21.2	21.7	12.7	15.8	8.4	2.9
	Cooperative projects: percent distribution of units					
Total	100.0	100.0	(1)	100.0	100.0	(1)
Less than 25 units	--	--	--	4.2	--	--
25 to 49 units	2.2	--	--	18.9	--	--
50 to 99 units	3.3	14.9	--	--	--	--
100 to 149 units	33.9	5.6	--	32.4	24.4	--
150 to 199 units	7.7	9.3	--	44.5	75.6	--
200 to 299 units	--	25.7	--	--	--	--
300 to 399 units	32.3	33.9	--	--	--	--
400 to 499 units	20.6	10.6	--	--	--	--
500 or more units	--	--	--	--	--	--

[1] See table 1, footnote 3.

Differences in the location of elevator and walkup projects were probably a major factor contributing to the generally larger unit count of the elevator projects. Buildings with elevators were concentrated in metropolitan areas with populations of a million or more, where there were large numbers of prospective tenants and where the scarcity and high cost of land necessitated its intensive utilization. Elevator structures permit, within a limited site area, the maximum number of units with sufficient

light and ventilation. Walkup projects, on the other hand, were more widely distributed throughout the country, many in localities where suitable land was plentiful and where the potential demand would not warrant large projects.

The fewer units in individual walkup projects also reflects the practice of constructing large walkup developments in several sections--to facilitate financing arrangements and for taxation purposes. Each of the component sections is covered by a separate mortgage and hence classified as a separate project.

TABLE 3.--ROOMS PER DWELLING UNIT IN NEW ELEVATOR AND WALKUP PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FHA INSURANCE, 1949 AND 1953-54

Number of rooms per unit [1]	Elevator structure			Walkup structure		
	1954	1953	1949	1954	1953	1949
	Rental projects: percent distribution of units					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
2 rooms	10.8	16.0	30.0	.4	.6	2.7
2-1/2 rooms	.3	4.4	3.8	--	.1	.6
3 rooms	13.9	11.2	19.3	2.4	6.7	15.3
3-1/2 rooms	21.8	13.2	27.3	1.7	11.3	24.5
4 rooms	12.2	15.1	6.1	19.4	23.4	23.3
4-1/2 rooms	16.5	26.7	11.5	37.8	27.2	24.6
5 rooms	18.8	2.9	1.9	27.8	21.7	8.2
5-1/2 rooms	3.3	5.3	(2)	1.7	2.5	.4
6 or more rooms	2.4	5.2	.1	8.8	6.5	.4
	Cooperative projects: percent distribution of units					
Total	100.0	100.0	(3)	100.0	100.0	(3)
2 rooms	--	1.6	--	--	--	--
2-1/2 rooms	2.6	--	--	--	--	--
3 rooms	.1	3.8	--	1.6	--	--
3-1/2 rooms	20.1	21.9	--	7.5	--	--
4 rooms	12.9	10.9	--	18.8	8.3	--
4-1/2 rooms	32.8	42.4	--	25.9	--	--
5 rooms	22.6	4.9	--	23.1	63.2	--
5-1/2 rooms	7.8	11.0	--	11.1	--	--
6 or more rooms	1.1	3.5	--	12.0	28.5	--

[1] Typical compositions of units are as follows: *Less than 3 rooms*--combination living and sleeping room with dining alcove and kitchen or kitchenette; *3 rooms*--living room, 1 bedroom and kitchen, with dining space in either living room or kitchen; *3-1/2 rooms*--living room, 1 bedroom, dining alcove, and kitchen; *4 rooms*--living room, 2 bedrooms, with dining space either in living room or kitchen; or (less frequently) living room, 1 bedroom, dining room, and kitchen; *4-1/2 rooms*-- living room, 2 bedrooms, dining alcove, and kitchen; *5 rooms*--living room, 2 bedrooms, dining room, and kitchen; or (less frequently) living room, 3 bedrooms, and kitchen, with dining space in either living room or kitchen; *5-1/2 rooms*--living room, 3 bedrooms, dining alcove, and kitchen; *6 rooms*--living room, 3 bedrooms, dining room, and kitchen.

[2] Less than 0.05 percent.

[3] See table 1, footnote 3.

Size of Dwelling Unit

Cooperative apartments tended, in 1953-54, to have more rooms than those in rental projects (table 3). Practically all cooperative units had at least 3-1/2 rooms, and 4-1/2 or 5-room apartments were most prevalent. Most rental units in walkup projects also had a minimum of 3-1/2 rooms, with a high proportion containing 4-1/2 room apartments, but in rental elevator projects fully a fourth of the units contained 3 rooms or less. Cooperative apartments were larger, in general, because they are intended to be the permanent homes of the owners and should be large enough to accommodate both their current and future family requirements.

The distributions of rental units by number of rooms, however, showed evidence of increased size after 1949, owing in part to legislative changes in the size of maximum insurable mortgages. The Housing Act of 1948 changed the maximum amount of mortgage allocable to dwelling use from $1,800 per room to $8,100 per unit. Under the per-room maximum, the more rooms an apartment had, the larger the amount of the insurable mortgage. On the other hand, the $8,100-per-unit maximum,

which applied to all units covered by commitments issued in 1949, tended to curb the incentive to construct units with more rooms. Amendments to legislation in subsequent years provided higher mortgage amounts for larger apartments and probably influenced the increase in unit size.

In 1949, walkup apartments having 3-1/2, 4, or 4-1/2 rooms were most numerous in rental projects, accounting for almost three-fourths of the total. By 1953, there had been an upward shift, with 5-room units supplanting the 3-1/2 room apartments, and in 1954, nearly two-thirds of the rental walkups had either 4-1/2 or 5 rooms. There was a parallel trend in the size of rental elevator apartments. In 1949, about a third of these units had less than 3 rooms, most of which were 2-room efficiencies (i.e., no bedrooms). By 1953, the proportion of rental elevator apartments with 4 or more rooms had increased substantially, with corresponding reductions in the proportion of smaller apartments. In 1954, the percentage of 5-room units in elevator buildings was much higher than in previous years.

TABLE 4.--MONTHLY RENTAL OR CHARGES FOR DWELLING UNITS IN NEW ELEVATOR AND WALKUP PROJECTS APPROVED FOR FHA INSURANCE, 1949 AND 1953-54

Monthly rental or charges per unit	Elevator structure			Walkup structure		
	1954	1953	1949	1954	1953	1949
	Rental projects: percent distribution of units					
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Less than $60.00	--	--	.8	1.0	3.2	9.6
$60 to $69.99	--	--	5.9	22.8	14.2	15.3
$70 to $79.99	.8	2.8	11.0	15.3	23.8	25.1
$80 to $89.99	4.6	9.5	16.2	12.6	29.2	20.6
$90 to $99.99	7.7	11.5	25.4	17.4	17.8	13.9
$100 to $109.99	10.9	6.7	12.9	4.7	6.7	8.1
$110 to $124.99	19.5	35.4	18.3	15.2	3.5	5.8
$125 to $149.99	34.5	27.9	8.6	6.4	1.5	1.6
$150 or more	22.0	6.2	.9	4.6	.1	(1)
	Cooperative projects: percent distribution of units					
Total	100.0	100.0	(2)	100.0	100.0	(2)
Less than $60.00	--	--	--	12.0	--	--
$60 to $69.99	2.7	--	--	--	--	--
$70 to $79.99	10.5	9.1	--	.9	--	--
$80 to $89.99	23.3	36.3	--	15.1	--	--
$90 to $99.99	37.5	52.3	--	5.4	--	--
$100 to $109.99	9.6	2.3	--	47.1	83.1	--
$110 to $124.99	15.4	--	--	11.7	16.9	--
$125 to $149.99	.9	--	--	7.8	--	--
$150 or more	.1	--	--	--	--	--

[1] Less than 0.05 percent. [2] See table 1, footnote 3.

Monthly Rents or Charges [6]

Apartment rents are influenced by such factors as location, type and cost of construction, utilities and services included in the rent, and the size of apartment. The higher level of personal income and the accompanying greater demand for "luxury" housing, as well as higher construction costs, often contribute to the higher rentals in the more populous urban areas. Higher rents are typical of projects located in better neighborhoods or nearer the center of the city. Within a project, apartments on the lower floors fronting on a busy, noisy thoroughfare often have lower rents than comparable units elsewhere in the same building because they are less attractive to tenants.

These factors are reflected in the generally higher rents for units in elevator-type buildings than for those in walkup structures (table 4). More than a third of the FHA-approved elevator apartments in

[6] Monthly rents or charges are as estimated at the time of commitment for insurance in connection with FHA's underwriting analysis. Generally, the estimated rentals closely approximate those which will prevail when the projects are completed and occupied, although adjustments may be made as a result of changes in construction or operating costs.

1954 had rents ranging between $125 and $150 a month, and the next largest group had rents of $150 or more. In contrast, almost 70 percent of the new walkup apartments built throughout the country in 1954 had rentals of less than $100.

Part of the 1949-54 rise in rents shown in table 4 for both elevator and walkup apartments may be attributed to the increase in the size of the typical new apartment. The rise in rents for FHA apartments may also reflect the generally upward trend of rents and the increase in construction costs during this period.[7]

Although apartments in elevator rental projects had fewer rooms, on the average, than similar units cooperatively owned, monthly rentals for the former were higher than the monthly charges for cooperative units. Most of the elevator projects--both cooperative and rental--were located in the New York metropolitan area, thus discounting geographical distribution as a responsible factor. More probably the explanation lies in the difference in the following component items underlying rentals and those underlying monthly charges for cooperatives:

1. Monthly rentals include an allowance for a reasonable return on investment. No such return on investment, however, is included in the monthly charges of cooperative projects inasmuch as the members take their return in kind, i.e., the most housing at a minimum cost. Nor do monthly charges provide for recapture of any of the initial downpayments required of cooperators when they purchase membership in the cooperative organization

2. Both monthly rentals and monthly charges cover the mortgage payment. Owing to the different methods of mortgage amortization, however, monthly payments on mortgages of the same amount are higher for rental projects than for cooperatives during the first third of the mortgage term--as much as one-fourth higher in the first year of operation which is the basis of the data shown in table 4. Rental project mortgages approved under Sections 207 and 908 (accounting for the bulk of rental units approved during 1953-54) are amortized on an accelerating-curtail declining-annuity basis, contrasted with the level-annuity basis applicable to Section 213 cooperative project mortgages.[8]

3. Monthly rentals are established to provide a 7-percent vacancy allowance, contrasted with a 3-percent operating reserve provided in cooperative projects to cover losses from vacancies and delinquent payments.

4. Monthly rentals in elevator projects cover all redecorating costs and replacement reserve expense. Monthly charges of cooperative projects, however, usually exclude certain "personal benefit" expenses which are borne by the individual members. These expenses, averaging roughly $5 to $6 monthly, generally cover cost of redecorating the members' own apartments and replacing such equipment as ranges and refrigerators.

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[7] The Bureau of Labor Statistics index of residential rents (1947-49=100) rose from 105 in 1949 to about 129 in 1954. The Boeckh index of construction costs for apartments, hotels and office buildings (1947-49=100) rose from 105 in 1949 to 127 in 1954.

[8] Under the accelerating-curtail declining-annuity method of amortization, the monthly mortgage payment declines during the life of the mortgage in line with the declining principal and interest payments. Under the level annuity method, the monthly payment remains constant for the full term of the mortgage.

STATISTICAL SERIES

NOTE: ALL THE STATISTICAL SERIES IN CONSTRUCTION REVIEW ARE SUBJECT TO REVISION FOR THE LATEST PERIOD SHOWN.

Part I--Construction Put in Place

Table 1.--New Construction Put in Place: Current Month, by Type of Construction

Type of construction	Value *(in millions of dollars)*					Percent change		
	1956		1955	First 3 months		March 1956 from--		First 3 months, 1955-56
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	1956	1955	Feb. 1956	Mar. 1955	
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**2,983**	**2,703**	**2,989**	**8,533**	**8,502**	**+10**	(1)	(1)
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**2,194**	**2,021**	**2,193**	**6,339**	**6,268**	**+ 9**	(1)	**+ 1**
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,109	987	1,185	3,176	3,356	+12	- 6	- 5
New dwelling units	995	885	1,085	2,860	3,075	+12	- 8	- 7
Additions and alterations	84	72	79	226	218	+17	+ 6	+ 4
Nonhousekeeping	30	30	21	90	63	0	+43	+43
Nonresidential building	655	646	558	1,951	1,649	+ 1	+17	+18
Industrial	226	225	186	674	559	(1)	+22	+21
Commercial	257	251	207	759	594	+ 2	+24	+28
Office buildings and warehouses	96	100	82	301	249	- 4	+17	+21
Stores, restaurants, and garages	161	151	125	458	345	+ 7	+29	+33
Other nonresidential building	172	170	165	518	496	+ 1	+ 4	+ 4
Religious	53	55	53	166	161	- 4	0	+ 3
Educational	39	40	41	120	122	- 3	- 5	- 2
Hospital and institutional	25	25	28	76	84	0	-11	-10
Social and recreational	18	17	16	53	51	+ 6	+13	+ 4
Miscellaneous	37	33	27	103	78	+12	+37	+32
Farm construction	94	86	103	263	290	+ 9	- 9	- 9
Public utility	329	295	333	927	932	+12	- 1	- 1
Railroad	30	25	25	82	64	+20	+20	+28
Telephone and telegraph	60	55	55	170	155	+ 9	+ 9	+10
Other public utility	239	215	253	675	713	+11	- 6	- 5
All other private	7	7	14	22	41	0	-50	-46
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**789**	**682**	**796**	**2,194**	**2,234**	**+16**	**- 1**	**- 2**
Residential building	19	20	23	59	66	- 5	-17	-11
Nonresidential building	303	279	349	875	1,011	+ 9	-13	-13
Industrial	33	28	77	94	243	+18	-57	-61
Educational	195	187	190	572	550	+ 4	+ 3	+ 4
Hospital and institutional	23	19	27	65	74	+21	-15	-12
Other nonresidential building	52	45	55	144	144	+16	- 5	0
Military facilities	87	79	82	251	237	+10	+ 6	+ 6
Highway	205	160	190	535	495	+28	+ 8	+ 8
Sewer and water	92	77	81	251	227	+19	+14	+11
Sewer	50	42	45	138	129	+19	+11	+ 7
Water	42	35	36	113	98	+20	+17	+15
Public service enterprises	30	23	14	78	38	+30	+114	+105
Conservation and development	42	34	45	114	128	+24	- 7	-11
All other public	11	10	12	31	32	+10	- 8	- 3

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 2.--New Construction Put in Place: Recent Monthly Trend, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1955										1956		
	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**2,989**	**3,283**	**3,606**	**3,881**	**4,044**	**4,101**	**4,086**	**3,953**	**3,617**	**3,177**	**2,847**	**2,703**	**2,983**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**2,193**	**2,367**	**2,547**	**2,730**	**2,829**	**2,858**	**2,844**	**2,765**	**2,632**	**2,410**	**2,124**	**2,021**	**2,194**
Residential building (nonfarm)	1,185	1,319	1,430	1,544	1,590	1,587	1,561	1,508	1,422	1,283	1,080	987	1,109
New dwelling units	1,085	1,190	1,270	1,380	1,430	1,435	1,410	1,360	1,280	1,160	980	885	995
Additions and alterations	79	106	133	133	127	119	119	116	110	92	70	72	84
Nonhousekeeping	21	23	27	31	33	33	32	32	32	31	30	30	30
Nonresidential building	558	563	592	633	668	686	714	719	717	683	650	646	655
Industrial	186	184	184	190	199	205	213	218	225	226	223	225	226
Commercial	207	214	236	259	277	286	303	305	296	269	251	251	257
Office buildings and warehouses	82	85	89	90	95	99	102	105	110	107	105	100	96
Stores, restaurants, and garages	125	129	147	169	182	187	201	200	186	162	146	151	161
Other nonresidential bldg.	165	165	172	184	192	195	198	196	196	188	176	170	172
Religious	53	54	58	62	66	68	69	68	67	63	58	55	53
Educational	41	40	36	39	41	43	45	45	45	43	41	40	39
Hospital & institutional	28	28	30	30	31	31	31	30	29	27	26	25	25
Social and recreational	16	17	19	22	23	23	22	21	21	20	18	17	18
Miscellaneous	27	26	29	31	31	30	31	32	34	35	33	33	37
Farm construction	103	114	131	141	148	150	137	112	94	83	83	86	94
Public utility	333	357	378	396	407	421	420	415	388	351	303	295	329
Railroad	25	28	29	30	31	33	34	32	30	29	27	25	30
Telephone and telegraph	55	55	60	60	65	65	65	60	60	55	55	55	60
Other public utility	253	274	289	306	311	323	321	323	298	267	221	215	239
All other private	14	14	16	16	16	14	12	11	11	10	8	7	7
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**796**	**916**	**1,059**	**1,151**	**1,215**	**1,243**	**1,242**	**1,188**	**985**	**767**	**723**	**682**	**789**
Residential building	23	22	22	23	21	22	22	22	21	20	20	20	19
Nonresidential building	349	361	374	382	387	380	372	353	318	287	293	279	303
Industrial	77	71	71	68	64	51	43	43	35	31	33	28	33
Educational	190	202	211	217	220	223	221	212	200	186	190	187	195
Hospital and institutional	27	28	28	30	32	32	32	28	25	20	23	19	23
Other nonresidential bldg.	55	60	64	67	71	74	76	70	58	50	47	45	52
Military facilities	82	98	106	120	122	129	133	134	115	106	85	79	87
Highway	190	270	375	430	480	500	510	485	355	200	170	160	205
Sewer and water	81	88	96	99	104	105	100	97	89	80	82	77	92
Sewer	45	50	54	56	60	59	56	54	51	45	46	42	50
Water	36	38	42	43	44	46	44	43	38	35	36	35	42
Public service enterprises	14	16	20	27	31	36	35	30	25	21	25	23	30
Conservation & development	45	48	53	56	56	56	54	52	49	43	38	34	42
All other public	12	13	13	14	14	15	16	15	13	10	10	10	11

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

COMPOSITION OF REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS

NORTHEAST

1. *New England*
   - Connecticut
   - Maine
   - Massachusetts
   - New Hampshire
   - Rhode Island
   - Vermont
2. *Middle Atlantic*
   - New Jersey
   - New York
   - Pennsylvania

NORTH CENTRAL

3. *E. N. Central*
   - Illinois
   - Indiana
   - Michigan
   - Ohio
   - Wisconsin
4. *W. N. Central*
   - Iowa
   - Kansas
   - Minnesota
   - Missouri
   - Nebraska
   - North Dakota
   - South Dakota

SOUTH

5. *S. Atlantic*
   - Delaware
   - Dist. of Col.
   - Florida
   - Georgia
   - Maryland
   - N. Carolina
   - S. Carolina
   - Virginia
   - W. Virginia
6. *E. S. Central*
   - Alabama
   - Kentucky
   - Mississippi
   - Tennessee
7. *W. S. Central*
   - Arkansas
   - Louisiana
   - Oklahoma
   - Texas

WEST

8. *Mountain*
   - Arizona
   - Colorado
   - Idaho
   - Montana
   - Nevada
   - New Mexico
   - Utah
   - Wyoming
9. *Pacific*
   - California
   - Oregon
   - Washington

NONFARM POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN 1950

NORTHEAST—29.5 percent. *NORTH CENTRAL*—29.0 percent. *SOUTH*—27.7 percent. *WEST*—13.8 percent.

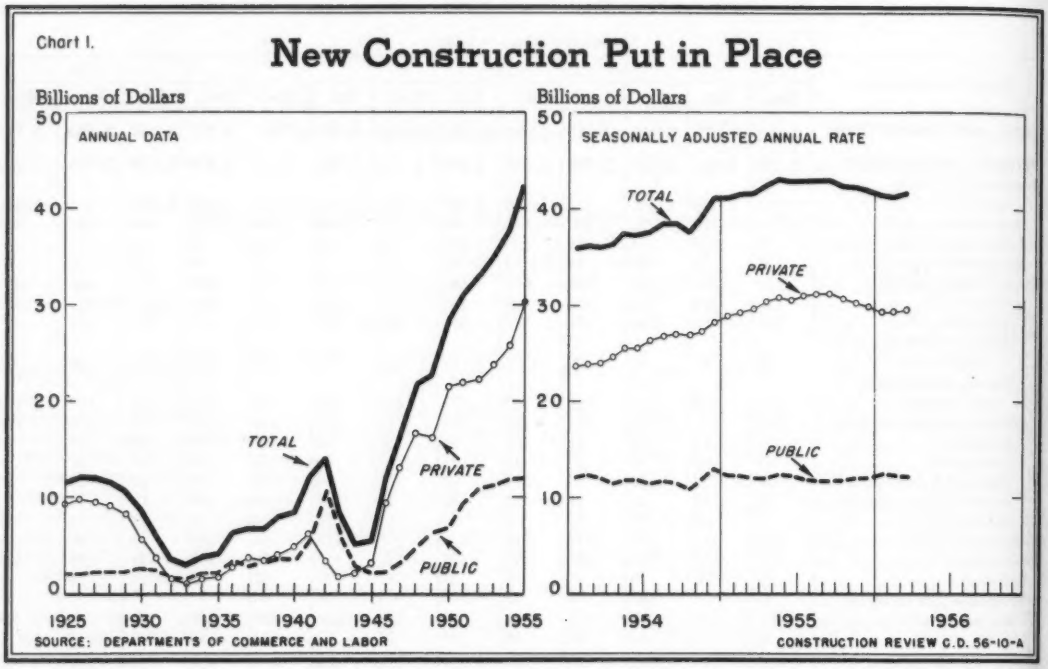


Table 3.--New Construction Put in Place: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate, by Type of Construction

(Value, in millions of dollars)

Type of construction	Seasonally adjusted annual rate							Annual total	
	1955				1956				
	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1954	1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	41,568	42,312	42,216	41,868	41,544	41,448	41,604	37,577	42,250
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	29,568	30,612	30,204	29,832	29,268	29,268	29,472	25,768	30,250
Residential building (nonfarm)	16,188	16,488	16,140	15,912	15,432	15,180	15,120	13,496	16,600
Nonresidential building	7,248	8,196	8,160	8,028	7,968	8,244	8,484	6,250	7,624
Industrial	2,256	2,544	2,616	2,668	2,604	2,652	2,736	2,030	2,403
Commercial	2,820	3,492	3,264	3,132	3,192	3,372	3,480	2,192	3,039
Office bldgs. & warehouses	1,056	1,212	1,224	1,188	1,200	1,212	1,236	958	1,131
Stores, restaurants, and garages	1,764	2,280	2,040	1,944	1,992	2,160	2,244	1,254	1,908
Other nonresidential building	2,172	2,160	2,280	2,232	2,172	2,220	2,268	2,008	2,182
Farm construction	1,452	1,344	1,332	1,320	1,320	1,320	1,332	1,560	1,400
Public utility	4,488	4,452	4,440	4,428	4,428	4,428	4,440	4,341	4,465
All other private	192	132	132	144	120	96	96	121	161
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	12,000	11,700	12,012	12,036	12,276	12,180	12,132	11,809	12,000
Residential building	288	252	252	240	264	264	240	336	261
Nonresidential building	4,440	3,948	4,008	3,864	3,996	3,984	3,864	4,641	4,225
Military facilities	1,116	1,404	1,332	1,416	1,212	1,248	1,188	1,030	1,300
Highway	4,044	3,984	4,284	4,404	4,536	4,368	4,392	3,750	4,100
Sewer and water	1,116	1,068	1,104	1,068	1,176	1,200	1,272	982	1,085
Public service enterprises	204	348	348	348	396	420	432	218	279
Conservation and development	648	516	516	540	552	540	612	704	595
All other public	144	180	168	156	144	156	132	148	155

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Table 4.--New Construction Put in Place: Value in 1947-49 Prices, by Type of Construction

(Millions of dollars)

Type of construction	1956		1955		Year					
	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Feb.	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION	**2,085**	**2,207**	**2,483**	**2,184**	**26,608**	**26,988**	**27,662**	**28,931**	**30,912**	**33,794**
PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION	**1,551**	**1,640**	**1,869**	**1,611**	**19,885**	**18,677**	**18,428**	**19,433**	**20,934**	**23,855**
Residential building (nonfarm)	774	854	1,018	863	11,634	9,457	9,311	9,840	11,214	13,382
Nonresidential building	496	500	529	440	3,566	4,494	4,211	4,655	5,073	6,004
Industrial	177	176	180	155	1,004	1,790	1,909	1,807	1,690	1,949
Office buildings and warehouses	77	81	83	67	396	500	461	640	789	895
Stores, restaurants, and garages	114	110	123	90	828	733	525	857	998	1,473
Other nonresidential bldgs.	128	133	143	128	1,338	1,471	1,316	1,351	1,596	1,687
Farm construction	70	68	69	82	1,583	1,616	1,643	1,484	1,344	1,175
Public utility	206	212	246	217	3,001	3,056	3,194	3,362	3,218	3,181
All other private	5	6	7	9	101	54	69	92	90	113
PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**534**	**567**	**614**	**573**	**6,723**	**8,311**	**9,234**	**9,498**	**9,978**	**9,939**
Residential building	16	16	16	17	321	512	550	459	281	213
Nonresidential building	211	221	219	255	2,237	3,050	3,465	3,531	3,743	3,296
Industrial	22	24	25	63	212	821	1,384	1,434	1,253	586
Educational	141	144	141	140	1,061	1,337	1,375	1,397	1,696	1,888
Hospital and institutional	14	17	15	17	467	466	401	297	289	255
Other nonresidential building	34	36	38	35	497	426	305	403	505	567
Military facilities	63	68	86	65	171	788	1,195	1,105	872	1,070
Highway	146	155	186	142	2,367	2,349	2,489	2,851	3,573	3,867
Sewer and water	53	57	56	51	590	655	639	681	724	770
Public service enterprises	15	17	14	8	164	168	148	146	156	191
Conservation and development	23	26	30	28	786	721	694	639	520	422
All other public	7	7	7	7	87	68	54	86	109	110

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor.

Chart 2

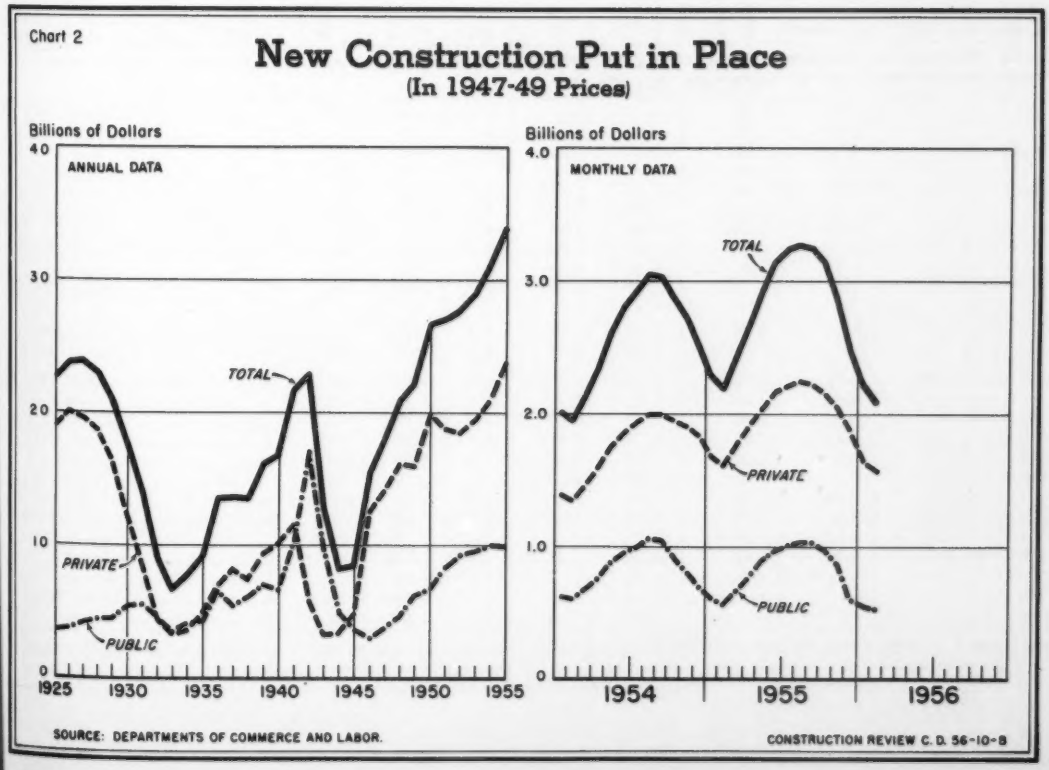


Table 5.--New Public Construction Put in Place, by Source of Funds, Ownership, and Type of Construction

Source of funds, ownership, and type of construction	Value (*in millions of dollars*)								Percent change		
	1955			1956			First 3 months		Mar. 1956 from--		First 3 months, 1955-56
	Mar.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1955	1956	Mar. 1955	Feb. 1956	
TOTAL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	**796**	**985**	**767**	**723**	**682**	**789**	**2,234**	**2,194**	**- 1**	**+16**	**- 2**
Federal funds	249	279	225	206	183	211	731	600	-15	+15	-18
Direct Federal	212	212	189	165	148	171	629	484	-19	+16	-23
Federal grants-in-aid [1]	37	67	36	41	35	40	102	116	+ 8	+14	+14
State and local funds	547	706	542	517	499	578	1,503	1,594	+ 6	+16	+ 6
FEDERALLY OWNED	**212**	**212**	**189**	**165**	**148**	**171**	**629**	**484**	**-19**	**+16**	**-23**
Residential building	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonresidential building	81	42	36	38	32	38	254	108	-53	+19	-57
Industrial	77	35	31	33	28	33	243	94	-57	+18	-61
Educational	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hospital	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	5	+100	+100	+25
Other nonresidential	3	5	3	3	3	3	7	9	0	0	+29
Military facilities	82	115	106	85	79	87	237	251	+ 6	+10	+ 6
Highway	3	5	4	4	3	4	8	11	+33	+33	+38
Conservation and development	45	49	43	38	34	42	128	114	- 7	+24	-11
All other federally owned	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	-100	0	-100
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	**584**	**773**	**578**	**558**	**534**	**618**	**1,605**	**1,710**	**+ 6**	**+16**	**+ 7**
Residential building	23	21	20	20	20	19	66	59	-17	- 5	-11
Nonresidential building	268	276	251	255	247	265	757	767	- 1	+ 7	+ 1
Educational	190	200	186	190	187	195	550	572	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4
Hospital	26	23	18	21	18	21	70	60	-19	+17	-14
Other nonresidential	52	53	47	44	42	49	137	135	- 6	+17	- 1
Highway	187	350	196	166	157	201	487	524	+ 7	+28	+ 8
Sewer and water	81	89	80	82	77	92	227	251	+14	+19	+11
Sewer	45	51	45	46	42	50	129	138	+11	+19	+ 7
Water	36	38	35	36	35	42	98	113	+17	+20	+15
All other State and locally owned	25	37	31	35	33	41	68	109	+64	+24	+60

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Construction programs currently receiving Federal grants-in-aid cover highways, schools, hospitals, airports, and miscellaneous community facilities.

Table 6.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Ownership, Location, and Type of Structure

Period	Total	Ownership		Location [1]		Type of structure			
		Private	Public	Metropolitan	Nonmetropolitan	1-family houses	Units in 2-or-more family structures: All	2-4 family	5-or-more family
	NUMBER OF NEW DWELLING UNITS *(in thousands)*								
Year: 1946	670.5	662.5	8.0	(2)	(2)	590.0	80.5	(3)	(3)
1947	849.0	845.6	3.4	(2)	(2)	740.2	108.8	(3)	(3)
1948	931.6	913.5	18.1	(2)	(2)	766.6	165.0	(3)	(3)
1949	1,025.1	988.8	36.3	(2)	(2)	794.3	230.8	(3)	(3)
1950	1,396.0	1,352.2	43.8	1,021.6	374.4	1,154.1	241.9	(3)	(3)
1951	1,091.3	1,020.1	71.2	776.8	314.5	900.1	191.2	(3)	(3)
1952	1,127.0	1,068.5	58.5	794.9	332.1	942.5	184.5	(3)	(3)
1953	1,103.8	1,068.3	35.5	803.5	300.3	937.8	166.0	(3)	(3)
1954	1,220.4	1,201.7	18.7	896.9	323.5	1,077.9	142.5	51.9	90.6
1955	1,327.9	1,308.2	19.7	975.3	352.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
First 2 months, 1955	177.5	175.2	2.3	135.0	42.5	157.2	20.3	7.5	12.8
First 2 months, 1956	152.0	149.8	2.2	109.3	42.7	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1955: February	89.9	87.9	2.0	66.9	23.0	78.9	11.0	3.9	7.1
March	113.8	112.8	1.0	86.8	27.0	100.1	13.7	5.0	8.7
April	132.0	130.5	1.5	96.8	35.2	119.9	12.1	4.7	7.4
May	137.6	135.1	2.5	99.7	37.9	122.2	15.4	5.1	10.3
June	134.8	131.4	3.4	98.9	35.9	121.5	13.3	4.4	8.9
July	122.6	121.9	.7	88.3	34.3	113.5	9.1	3.9	5.2
August	124.7	122.3	2.4	91.5	33.2	111.6	13.1	3.8	9.3
September	114.9	113.6	1.3	83.5	31.4	104.1	10.8	3.6	7.2
October	105.8	104.8	1.0	76.5	29.3	95.1	10.7	3.7	7.0
November	89.2	88.4	.8	64.6	24.6	80.4	8.8	4.3	4.5
December	75.0	72.2	2.8	53.7	21.3	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
1956: January	74.0	73.0	1.0	53.4	20.6	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
February	78.0	76.8	1.2	55.9	22.1	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)
	Percent change								
First 2 months, 1955-56	-14.4	-14.5	-4.3	-19.0	+0.5	--	--	--	--
January-February, 1956	+ 5.4	+ 5.2	+20.0	+ 4.7	+7.3	--	--	--	--
February, 1955-56	-13.2	-12.6	-40.0	-16.4	-3.9	--	--	--	--
	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION								
Year: 1946	100	98.8	1.2	--	--	88.0	12.0	--	--
1947	100	99.6	.4	--	--	87.2	12.8	--	--
1948	100	98.1	1.9	--	--	82.3	17.7	--	--
1949	100	96.5	3.5	--	--	77.5	22.5	--	--
1950	100	96.9	3.1	73.2	26.8	82.7	17.3	--	--
1951	100	93.5	6.5	71.2	28.8	82.5	17.5	--	--
1952	100	94.8	5.2	70.5	29.5	83.6	16.4	--	--
1953	100	96.8	3.2	72.8	27.2	85.0	15.0	--	--
1954	100	98.5	1.5	73.5	26.5	88.3	11.7	4.3	7.4
1955	100	98.5	1.5	73.4	26.6	--	--	--	--
First 2 months, 1955	100	98.7	1.3	76.1	23.9	88.6	11.4	4.2	7.2
First 2 months, 1956	100	98.6	1.4	71.9	28.1	--	--	--	--
1955: February	100	97.8	2.2	74.4	25.6	87.8	12.2	4.3	7.9
March	100	99.1	.9	76.3	23.7	88.0	12.0	4.4	7.6
April	100	98.9	1.1	73.3	26.7	90.8	9.2	3.6	5.6
May	100	98.2	1.8	72.5	27.5	88.8	11.2	3.7	7.5
June	190	97.5	2.5	73.4	26.6	90.1	9.9	3.3	6.6
July	100	99.4	.6	72.0	28.0	92.6	7.4	3.2	4.2
August	100	98.1	1.9	73.4	26.6	89.5	10.5	3.0	7.5
September	100	98.9	1.1	72.7	27.3	90.6	9.4	3.1	6.3
October	100	99.1	.9	72.3	27.7	89.9	10.1	3.5	6.6
November	100	99.1	.9	72.4	27.6	90.1	9.9	4.8	5.1
December	100	96.3	3.7	71.6	28.4	--	--	--	--
1956: January	100	98.6	1.4	72.2	27.8	--	--	--	--
February	100	98.5	1.5	71.7	28.3	--	--	--	--

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Data by urban and rural-nonfarm classification for 1920-53 are available upon request. [2] Annual data not available before 1950; monthly data not available before January 1953. [3] Not available before January 1954. Tabulations showing the number of units in 2-family and 3-or-more family structures for 1920-53 are available upon request. [4] Not yet available.

Table 7.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started: Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate

Year	Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)*											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1946.....	598	661	752	693	677	655	645	663	634	658	643	646
1947.....	619	667	679	694	735	803	854	923	1,029	1,089	1,064	962
1948.....	851	762	925	1,015	1,000	1,008	986	912	886	838	827	812
1949.....	751	745	792	879	920	950	976	1,035	1,108	1,187	1,259	1,266
1950.....	1,262	1,283	1,406	1,358	1,469	1,496	1,471	1,476	1,278	1,174	1,115	1,292
1951.....	1,333	1,192	1,093	955	984	942	914	946	1,049	1,036	973	978
1952.....	996	1,158	1,104	1,003	1,018	1,011	1,064	1,044	1,092	1,156	1,110	1,111
1953.....	1,106	1,150	1,165	1,111	1,065	1,064	1,015	988	1,014	1,050	1,077	1.060
1954.....	1,056	1,152	1,130	1,102	1,083	1,175	1,188	1,211	1,248	1,287	1,393	1,478
1955.....	1,416	1,370	1,367	1,350	1,362	1,371	1,283	1,310	1,251	1,221	1,192	1,187
1956.....	1,180	1,200										

Source: Department of Labor.

Chart 3.

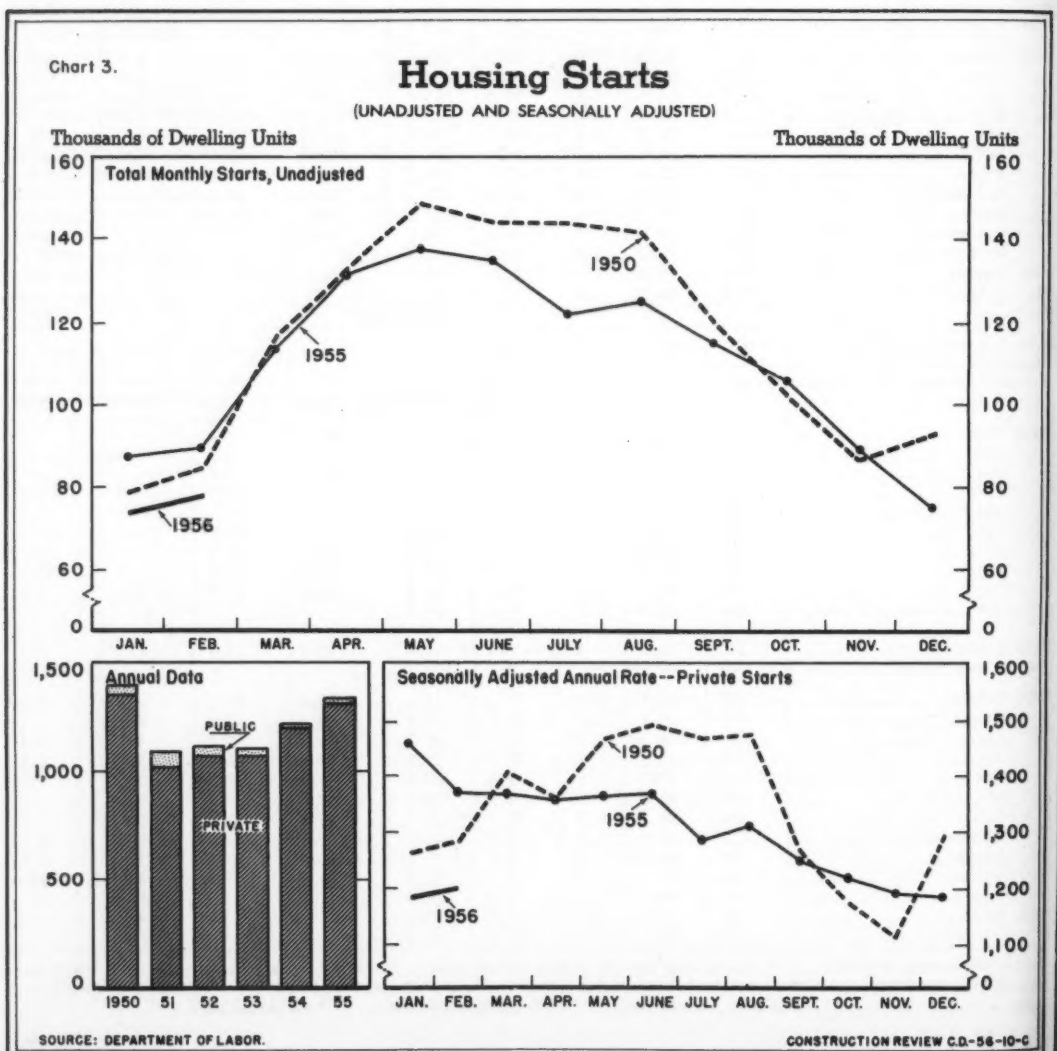


Table 8.--New Private 1-Family Houses Started: Average Construction Cost

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	AVERAGE CONSTRUCTION COST												
1946	$5,250	$5,400	$5,850	$5,575	$5,475	$5,425	$5,375	$5,450	$5,450	$5,625	$5,675	$5,575	$5,525
1947	5,700	5,825	6,150	6,275	6,250	6,450	6,725	6,950	7,025	7,275	7,525	7,650	6,750
1948	7,250	7,450	7,550	7,775	7,950	8,050	8,050	8,100	7,900	7,825	7,900	7,900	7,850
1949	7,650	7,525	7,450	7,500	7,650	7,675	7,525	7,650	7,725	7,675	7,675	7,625	7,625
1950	7,625	7,850	8,225	8,450	8,450	8,750	8,875	9,125	8,900	9,200	9,075	9,200	8,675
1951	9,100	9,250	9,175	9,325	9,475	9,475	9,400	9,300	9,450	9,225	9,250	9,125	9,300
1952	9,050	9,275	9,350	9,550	9,575	9,675	9,500	9,425	9,600	9,525	9,550	9,525	9,475
1953	9,400	9,600	9,800	10,000	9,900	10,000	10,125	10,175	10,200	10,175	9,975	10,000	9,950
1954	9,750	9,800	10,075	10,600	10,850	10,750	10,850	10,750	10,675	10,800	10,850	11,075	10,625
1955	10,575	11,125	11,250	11,250	11,400	11,400	11,475	11,425	11,525	11,575	11,575	(1)	--
	Percent change, 1954 to 1955												
	+8.5	+13.5	+11.7	+6.1	+5.1	+6.0	+5.8	+6.3	+8.0	+7.2	+6.7	--	--

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not yet available.

Table 9.--New Nonfarm Dwelling Units Started, by Region [1]

Region	Number of new dwelling units *(in thousands)*											Percent change, first 11 months 1954-55
	1954	1955								First 11 months		
	Nov.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	1954	1955	
TOTAL	103.6	132.0	137.6	134.8	122.6	124.7	114.9	105.8	89.2	1,129.8	1,252.9	+10.9
Northeast	19.0	28.6	30.3	30.8	27.0	24.9	23.4	23.5	17.7	227.8	259.3	+13.8
North Central	26.8	37.3	40.0	39.3	35.6	38.0	34.4	29.4	23.0	305.8	340.4	+11.3
South	31.5	35.7	37.4	36.5	32.7	34.8	31.9	28.5	27.8	331.7	361.2	+ 8.9
West	26.3	30.4	29.9	28.2	27.3	27.0	25.2	24.4	20.7	264.5	292.0	+10.4

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2.

Chart 4

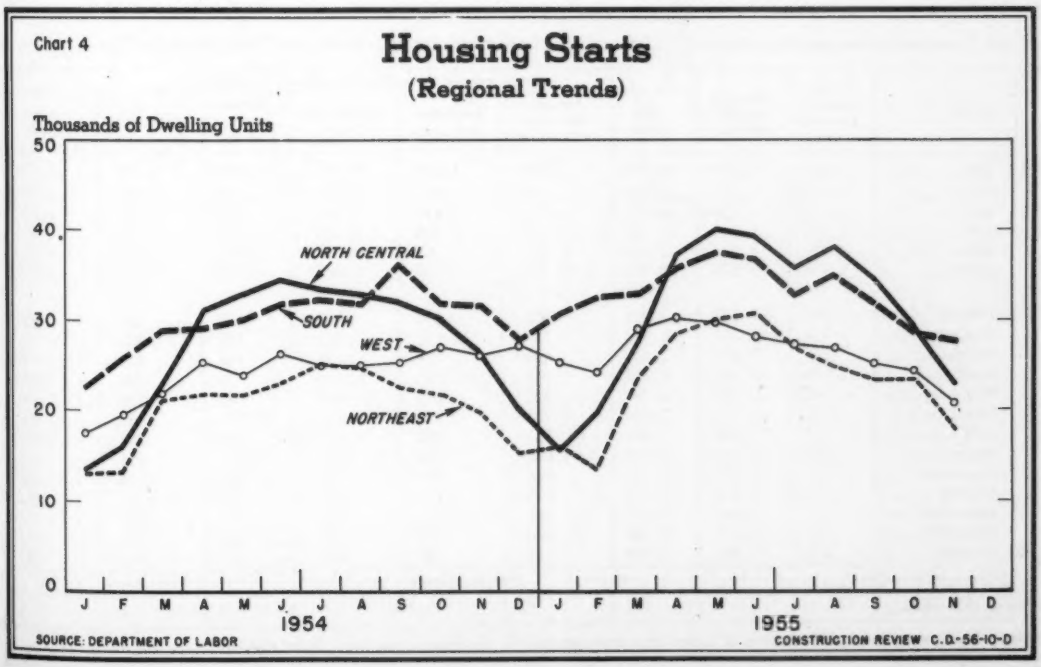


Table 10.--New Private Nonfarm Dwelling Units: Mortgages Applied for, Appraisals Requested, and Units Started Under FHA and VA Programs

Period	FHA-assisted units		VA-assisted units		Nonfarm dwelling units started		
	In applications	Started *(in thousands)*	In appraisal requests	Started *(in thousands)*	U. S. total	FHA-assisted	VA-assisted
	NUMBER OF DWELLING UNITS				PERCENT DISTRIBUTION		
Year: 1950	627,927	486.7	(1)	200.0	100	36	15
1951	268,740	263.5	164,365	148.6	100	26	15
1952	323,923	280.0	226,299	141.3	100	26	13
1953	327,323	252.0	251,437	156.6	100	24	15
1954	383,334	276.3	535,412	307.0	100	23	26
1955	314,868	277.1	620,776	391.8	100	21	30
First 2 mos., 1955	54,595	37.2	110,396	54.1	100	21	31
First 2 mos., 1956	36,371	26.5	66,418	40.4	100	18	27
1955: February	28,548	17.2	64,192	28.0	100	20	32
March	36,622	23.8	71,939	29.9	100	21	27
April	33,412	25.8	65,856	34.5	100	20	26
May	31,111	28.0	69,280	37.8	100	21	28
June	32,521	32.1	52,424	39.5	100	24	30
July	25,033	26.0	51,412	37.4	100	21	31
August	27,294	26.9	55,974	40.8	100	22	33
September	23,840	24.7	45,063	33.4	100	22	29
October	19,836	18.8	43,143	34.8	100	18	33
November	16,921	17.9	30,397	28.1	100	20	32
December	13,683	16.2	24,892	21.6	100	22	30
1956: January	16,181	13.0	29,284	23.0	100	18	32
February	20,190	13.5	37,134	17.4	100	18	23
	Percent change						
First 2 mos., 1955-56	-33	-29	-40	-25			

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Federal Housing Administration (HHFA) and the Veterans Administration. [1]Not available.

Table 11.--Nonfarm Mortgage Recordings of $20,000 or Less: Number and Average Amount, and Total Amount by Type of Lender

Period	Total number *(in thousands)*	Average amount *(dollars)*	Total amount *(in millions of dollars)* recorded by--						
			All lenders	Savings and loan associations	Insurance companies	Commercial banks	Mutual savings banks	Individuals	All other lenders
Year: 1950	3,032	5,535	16,179	5,060	1,618	3,365	1,064	2,299	2,774
1951	2,878	5,701	16,405	5,295	1,615	3,370	1,013	2,539	2,572
1952	3,028	5,950	18,018	6,452	1,420	3,600	1,137	2,758	2,651
1953	3,164	6,241	19,747	7,365	1,480	3,680	1,327	2,841	3,055
1954	3,458	6,644	22,974	8,312	1,768	4,239	1,501	2,882	4,272
1955	3,913	7,279	28,484	10,452	1,932	5,617	1,858	3,362	5,265
1955: January	284	7,120	2,024	688	165	379	128	246	419
February	277	7,077	1,958	702	151	365	116	228	396
March	343	7,153	2,455	928	174	458	134	303	459
April	328	7,182	2,357	900	165	456	136	276	424
May	344	7,215	2,483	950	163	482	153	286	449
June	360	7,312	2,636	1,024	174	516	171	301	449
July	335	7,348	2,463	953	161	472	168	283	425
August	366	7,362	2,697	1,060	163	541	179	310	463
September	342	7,377	2,522	946	155	505	168	292	456
October	326	7,320	2,387	835	153	505	167	285	441
November	314	7,380	2,316	765	152	499	171	285	443
December	293	7,457	2,188	700	156	457	166	268	441
1956: January	275	7,483	2,059	665	148	435	131	275	406
	Percent change								
January, 1955-56	- 3	+ 5	+ 2	- 3	-10	+15	+ 2	+12	- 3

Source: Table compiled by Department of Labor from data reported by the Home Loan Bank Board (HHFA).

Part III--Building Permits

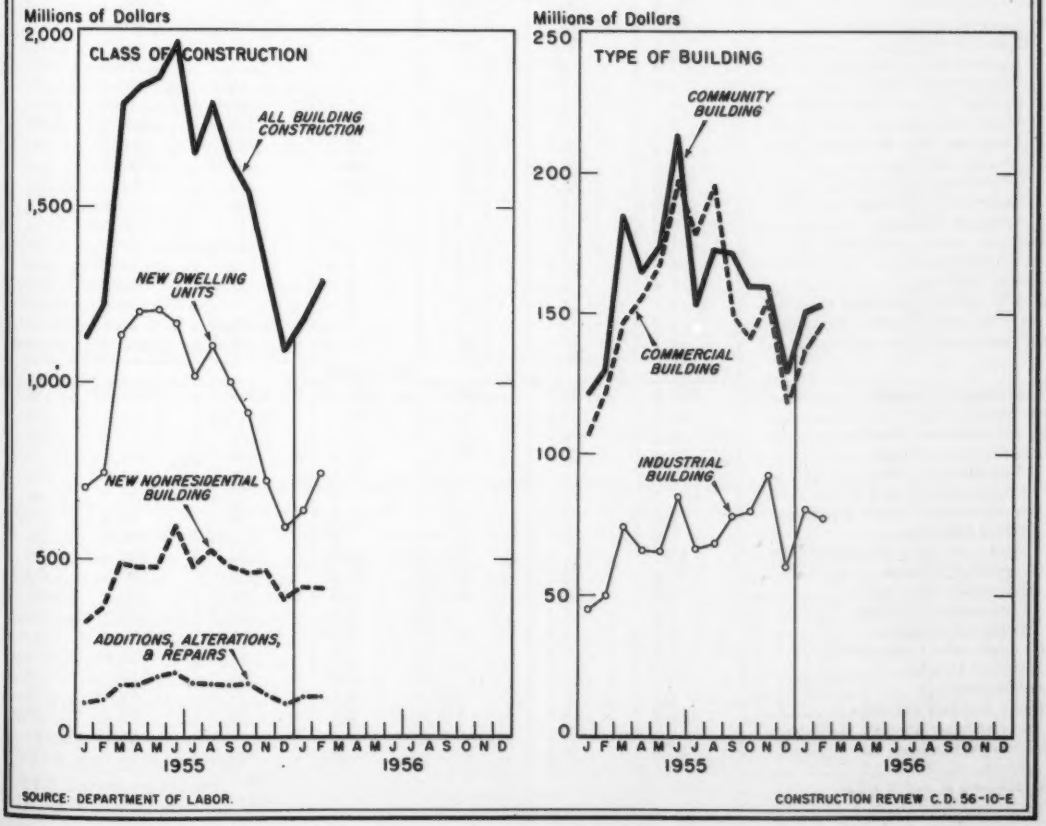
Table 12.--Building Permit Activity: Current Summary, by Type of Building Construction

Type of building construction	Valuation *(in millions of dollars)*						Percent change, Feb. 1955-56
	1956		1955		First 2 months		
	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Feb.	1956	1955	
All building construction [1]	1,287.6	1,179.1	1,083.6	1,226.6	2,466.7	2,382.4	+ 5
Private	1,165.5	1,055.7	949.4	1,105.6	2,221.2	2,146.8	+ 5
Public	122.1	123.3	134.2	121.0	245.4	235.6	+ 1
New dwelling units [2]	741.7	634.6	592.2	746.0	1,376.3	1,456.7	- 1
Number of new dwelling units	*(70,711)*	*(62,816)*	*(57,314)*	*(79,053)*	*(133,527)*	*(156,428)*	*(-11)*
New nonresidential building	420.8	423.2	386.4	365.6	844.0	706.8	+15
Commercial buildings	146.0	136.4	118.5	123.4	282.4	224.2	+18
Stores and other mercantile buildings	73.3	64.0	66.8	68.0	137.3	125.1	+ 8
All other commercial buildings	72.7	72.4	51.7	55.4	145.1	99.1	+31
Community buildings	152.9	150.3	130.9	130.2	303.2	253.8	+17
Industrial buildings	76.9	79.9	59.2	49.8	156.8	94.5	+54
All other nonresidential buildings	45.0	56.6	77.7	62.2	101.6	134.3	-28
Additions, alterations, and repairs	115.0	113.6	95.6	100.7	228.6	195.7	+14

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Chart 5

Building Permit Activity



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-E

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region[1]

Type of building construction	Valuation (*in millions of dollars*)						Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955			1956	Year		
	Jan.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	1954	1955	
UNITED STATES							
All building construction [2]	1,155.8	1,322.8	1,083.6	1,179.1	16,485.8	18,918.4	+ 2
New dwelling units [3]	710.7	722.4	592.2	634.6	9,855.6	11,525.3	-11
New nonresidential building	341.2	468.7	386.4	423.2	5,024.1	5,585.1	+24
Commercial buildings	100.8	154.8	118.5	136.4	1,591.4	1,854.1	+35
Amusement buildings	6.2	6.7	4.7	6.7	97.6	99.4	+ 8
Commercial garages	5.0	3.2	4.1	2.8	60.1	66.7	-44
Gasoline and service stations	8.8	9.9	9.5	9.8	119.9	140.0	+11
Office buildings	23.8	64.4	33.4	53.2	454.1	553.0	+124
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	57.1	70.6	66.8	64.0	859.6	994.9	+12
Community buildings	123.6	159.5	130.9	150.3	1,875.3	1,941.1	+22
Educational buildings	79.7	109.4	94.3	107.9	1,177.7	1,239.1	+35
Institutional buildings	21.7	16.3	13.0	17.5	336.2	306.5	-19
Religious buildings	22.2	33.7	23.6	24.9	361.5	395.5	+12
Garages, private residential	5.8	12.6	6.2	6.0	166.4	187.6	+ 3
Industrial buildings	44.7	93.4	59.2	79.9	662.3	833.4	+79
Public buildings	40.8	19.6	25.9	19.3	318.1	304.9	-53
Public utilities buildings	13.4	15.8	31.5	18.4	209.4	273.1	+37
All other nonresidential buildings	12.1	13.1	14.1	12.9	201.1	190.9	+ 7
Additions, alterations, and repairs	95.0	118.1	95.6	113.6	1,469.9	1,647.7	+20
Northeast							
All building construction [2]	250.3	316.0	235.3	214.0	3,663.9	4,125.0	-15
New dwelling units [3]	141.8	158.5	130.3	114.8	2,159.1	2,496.9	-19
New nonresidential building	87.0	128.2	81.1	77.4	1,149.6	1,232.3	-11
Commercial buildings	18.5	57.5	26.7	24.4	355.6	427.9	+32
Amusement buildings	2.0	1.7	.6	1.6	23.1	16.3	-20
Commercial garages	2.9	1.0	1.5	.5	17.7	16.4	-83
Gasoline and service stations	1.3	1.8	2.1	1.4	20.9	23.6	+ 8
Office buildings	4.1	35.6	9.9	8.4	128.2	182.4	+105
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	8.2	17.3	12.6	12.5	165.7	189.2	+52
Community buildings	46.6	38.3	27.2	38.2	439.4	437.4	-18
Educational buildings	32.5	28.2	21.0	27.8	281.2	291.7	-14
Institutional buildings	9.9	2.3	1.4	4.6	86.4	56.7	-54
Religious buildings	4.2	7.9	4.8	5.8	71.9	89.0	+38
Garages, private residential	1.2	3.1	1.6	1.0	38.6	40.3	-17
Industrial buildings	8.0	19.8	14.9	9.6	156.1	194.2	+20
Public buildings	6.8	4.5	3.4	1.2	91.1	36.3	-82
Public utilities buildings	2.8	3.4	5.3	1.3	31.0	52.9	-54
All other nonresidential buildings	3.0	1.7	2.0	1.6	37.9	43.3	-47
Additions, alterations, and repairs	19.7	26.5	21.7	20.5	336.6	364.8	+ 4
North Central							
All building construction [2]	239.1	385.8	281.7	283.8	4,838.1	5,707.2	+19
New dwelling units [3]	143.0	214.0	144.2	157.7	2,905.8	3,486.6	+10
New nonresidential building	74.4	138.9	112.1	97.2	1,493.0	1,744.4	+31
Commercial buildings	27.4	36.9	23.6	27.4	446.1	491.4	0
Amusement buildings	2.7	1.7	1.2	1.1	28.3	31.5	-59
Commercial garages	.5	1.1	.8	.6	23.9	23.7	+20
Gasoline and service stations	2.3	2.7	2.3	2.8	38.1	43.0	+22
Office buildings	4.8	13.7	8.4	7.3	113.8	126.6	+52
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	17.1	17.8	10.8	15.7	242.0	266.6	- 8
Community buildings	21.1	55.5	40.4	36.2	528.5	639.5	+72
Educational buildings	12.7	39.6	28.1	25.6	336.9	394.1	+102
Institutional buildings	1.5	6.1	5.6	5.1	81.7	120.0	+240
Religious buildings	6.9	9.8	6.7	5.4	109.9	125.4	-22
Garages, private residential	1.6	6.0	2.0	1.7	81.6	97.6	+ 6
Industrial buildings	15.3	32.4	25.3	23.5	222.2	315.1	+54
Public buildings	1.9	2.0	9.2	4.6	73.2	80.5	+142
Public utilities buildings	6.3	3.7	9.6	2.5	90.7	92.9	-60
All other nonresidential buildings	.8	2.4	1.9	1.3	50.6	27.2	+63
Additions, alterations, and repairs	20.6	28.5	23.8	27.8	404.1	447.9	+35

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 13.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Type of Building Construction and Region[1]--Continued

Type of building construction	Valuation (in millions of dollars)						Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955			1956	Year		
	Jan.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	1954	1955	
South							
All building construction [2]	369.1	313.4	293.2	328.8	4,144.7	4,660.1	-11
New dwelling units [3]	213.9	173.2	160.2	174.2	2,339.5	2,696.1	-19
New nonresidential building	121.5	103.9	103.3	116.7	1,374.9	1,452.6	- 4
Commercial buildings	30.9	27.8	40.3	53.8	473.1	528.5	+74
Amusement buildings	1.0	2.2	2.1	1.1	26.5	33.2	+10
Commercial garages	1.3	.5	1.4	.6	10.7	19.4	-54
Gasoline and service stations	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.0	37.2	46.2	+21
Office buildings	8.0	5.2	6.6	25.7	127.9	130.9	+221
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	17.2	16.6	26.7	22.5	270.7	298.8	+31
Community buildings	38.7	31.4	34.6	34.6	540.8	504.5	-11
Educational buildings	21.1	18.6	22.7	22.8	293.9	292.3	+ 8
Institutional buildings	9.5	2.4	3.4	3.2	123.8	82.6	-66
Religious buildings	8.1	10.4	8.5	8.6	123.0	129.7	+ 6
Garages, private residential	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.2	17.4	19.0	0
Industrial buildings	11.7	24.1	8.6	8.8	167.0	149.5	-25
Public buildings	30.7	9.7	6.3	4.8	79.6	107.7	-84
Public utilities buildings	3.6	6.2	7.1	10.6	50.5	86.8	+194
All other nonresidential buildings	4.6	3.3	5.5	2.9	46.5	56.6	-37
Additions, alterations, and repairs	31.8	34.9	26.1	36.1	391.9	451.1	+14
West							
All building construction [2]	297.3	307.6	273.5	352.4	3,839.1	4,426.1	+19
New dwelling units [3]	212.0	176.8	157.4	187.9	2,451.2	2,845.7	-11
New nonresidential building	58.4	97.7	89.9	131.9	1,006.6	1,155.7	+126
Commercial buildings	24.1	32.7	27.9	30.7	316.7	406.3	+27
Amusement buildings	.6	1.1	.7	2.9	19.8	18.4	(4)
Commercial garages	.3	.7	.4	1.1	7.7	7.1	+267
Gasoline and service stations	1.8	2.1	1.5	1.6	23.7	27.3	-11
Office buildings	6.8	9.9	8.5	11.9	84.3	113.2	+75
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	14.5	18.9	16.7	13.3	181.2	240.3	- 8
Community buildings	17.2	34.3	28.8	41.4	366.6	359.6	+141
Educational buildings	13.4	23.1	22.5	31.7	265.7	261.0	+137
Institutional buildings	.8	5.6	2.5	4.6	44.3	47.2	(4)
Religious buildings	3.0	5.7	3.7	5.1	56.6	51.4	+70
Garages, private residential	1.8	2.0	1.6	2.1	28.8	30.7	+17
Industrial buildings	9.6	17.2	10.5	38.0	117.0	174.5	+296
Public buildings	1.4	3.4	7.0	8.7	74.2	80.3	(4)
Public utilities buildings	.7	2.5	9.4	4.0	37.2	40.5	(4)
All other nonresidential buildings	3.7	5.6	4.7	7.0	66.1	63.8	+89
Additions, alterations, and repairs	22.9	28.4	23.9	29.2	337.3	383.9	+28

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [3] Housekeeping only. [4] Percent increase exceeds 300.

Table 14.--Building Permit Activity: Number of Nonresidential Buildings, by Type of Building

Type of building	1954	1955						1956
	Jan.	Jan.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Amusement buildings	119	129	206	185	165	129	193	92	104
Commercial garages	131	140	157	230	218	233	192	143	129
Educational buildings	367	286	486	403	450	350	323	342	388
Garages, private residential	5,396	6,865	22,746	25,366	28,641	23,170	14,341	6,880	6,762
Gasoline and service stations	507	620	826	945	866	833	682	659	638
Industrial buildings	624	818	1,131	1,236	1,231	1,256	1,184	936	1,078
Institutional buildings	97	42	73	106	68	98	77	46	64
Office buildings	286	402	610	631	765	566	521	434	512
Religious buildings	300	328	505	525	479	447	416	301	315
Stores & other mercantile bldgs.	1,812	2,287	2,854	3,265	2,735	2,799	2,380	2,056	2,131

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 15.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation and Number of New Dwelling Units, by Type of Structure, Public-Private Ownership, and Region [1]

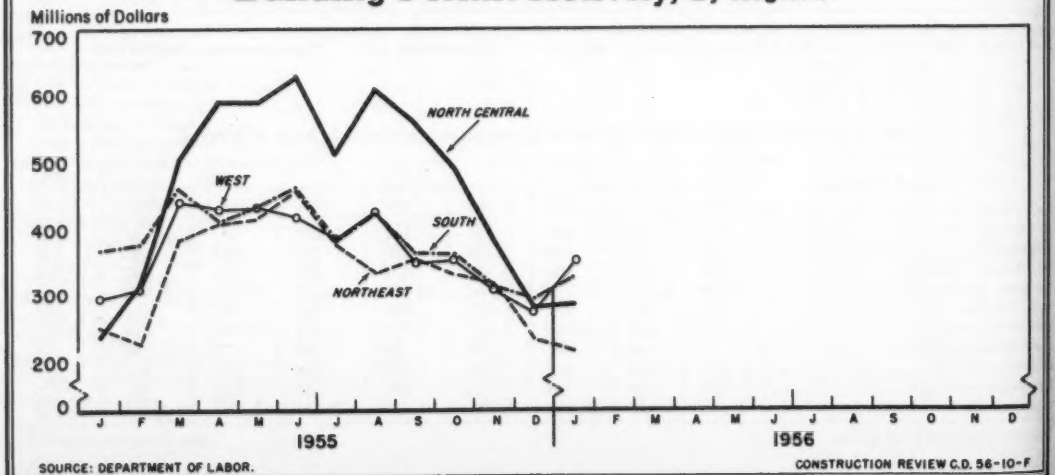
(Housekeeping units only)

Ownership and type of structure	Valuation *(in millions of dollars)*					Number of dwelling units				
	1955		1956	Year		1955		1956	Year	
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	1954	1955	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	1954	1955
UNITED STATES										
All new dwelling units..	710.7	592.2	634.6	9,855.6	11,525.3	77,375	57,314	62,816	1,074,512	1,147,434
Privately owned	708.0	580.4	624.9	9,696.3	11,376.6	77,046	56,246	61,797	1,056,507	1,131,577
1-family	656.1	542.8	581.3	8,917.0	10,636.1	68,382	50,054	54,562	927,822	1,013,820
2-4 family.....	19.1	15.5	18.9	298.6	292.0	3,323	2,512	3,040	50,669	46,247
5-or-more family	33.0	22.1	24.7	480.7	448.6	5,341	3,680	4,195	78,016	71,510
Publicly owned	2.7	11.8	9.7	159.3	148.7	329	1,068	1,019	18,005	15,857
Northeast										
All new dwelling units..	141.8	130.3	114.8	2,159.1	2,496.9	14,227	11,826	11,042	222,086	242,140
Privately owned	140.7	125.4	106.0	2,077.5	2,414.3	14,123	11,250	10,135	213,099	232,923
1-family	120.4	116.1	94.0	1,826.8	2,179.5	11,557	9,907	8,406	179,408	201,965
2-4 family	3.0	3.5	3.5	59.0	59.1	453	581	488	8,726	8,521
5-or-more family	17.3	5.7	8.5	191.8	175.6	2,113	762	1,241	24,965	22,437
Publicly owned	1.1	4.9	8.8	81.5	82.6	104	576	907	8,987	9,217
North Central										
All new dwelling units..	143.0	144.2	157.7	2,905.8	3,486.6	13,189	11,652	13,227	272,344	298,318
Privately owned	143.0	144.2	157.7	2,867.8	3,452.0	13,189	11,652	13,227	268,169	294,816
1-family	136.4	138.0	150.4	2,724.1	3,303.8	12,306	10,944	12,390	250,023	276,920
2-4 family.....	3.8	3.5	4.6	76.6	81.8	457	397	478	9,307	9,181
5-or-more family	2.8	2.8	2.8	67.1	66.3	426	311	359	8,839	8,715
Publicly owned	0	0	0	38.0	34.6	0	0	0	4,175	3,502
South										
All new dwelling units..	213.9	160.2	174.2	2,339.5	2,696.1	26,556	17,842	19,567	297,664	309,091
Privately owned	213.9	156.8	173.4	2,315.9	2,680.9	26,556	17,600	19,465	294,798	307,546
1-family	204.6	149.2	166.1	2,166.3	2,549.9	24,337	16,127	17,823	262,393	279,663
2-4 family.....	5.1	3.9	4.5	65.2	61.3	1,122	765	991	14,223	13,076
5-or-more family	4.2	3.7	2.8	84.4	69.7	1,097	708	651	18,182	14,807
Publicly owned	0	3.5	.9	23.6	15.2	0	242	102	2,866	1,545
West										
All new dwelling units..	212.0	157.4	187.9	2,451.2	2,845.7	23,403	15,994	18,980	282,418	297,885
Privately owned.....	210.4	154.1	187.8	2,435.0	2,829.5	23,178	15,744	18,970	280,441	296,292
1-family	194.6	139.4	170.8	2,199.8	2,602.9	20,182	13,076	15,943	235,998	255,272
2-4 family.....	7.1	4.7	6.3	97.8	89.7	1,291	769	1,083	18,413	15,469
5-or-more family	8.7	10.0	10.7	137.4	136.9	1,705	1,899	1,944	26,030	25,551
Publicly owned	1.6	3.4	(2)	16.2	16.2	225	250	10	1,977	1,593

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Less than $50,000.

Chart 6.

Building Permit Activity, By Regions



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-F

Table 16.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Millions of dollars)

State	1954	1955					Year		Percent change, year 1954-55
	Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	1,228.6	1,793.7	1,633.5	1,540.4	1,322.8	1,083.6	16,485.8	18,918.4	+15
Metropolitan areas	1,012.0	1,433.0	1,275.4	1,207.6	1,027.5	866.8	13,180.7	15,090.5	+14
Nonmetropolitan areas	216.6	360.7	358.1	332.8	295.3	216.8	3,305.1	3,827.9	+16
Alabama	7.8	13.6	17.8	14.1	12.1	10.0	135.8	166.2	+22
Arizona	12.5	15.8	11.1	12.0	12.8	15.7	145.1	165.8	+14
Arkansas	6.1	6.4	3.7	4.9	4.1	2.9	77.4	54.3	-30
California	222.9	296.6	237.5	249.6	217.9	192.4	2,569.5	3,065.0	+19
Colorado	24.2	24.4	22.7	26.0	20.7	15.9	245.3	280.6	+14
Connecticut	21.4	30.6	34.1	23.9	29.0	22.1	320.4	359.1	+12
Delaware	1.5	3.6	7.5	6.3	3.5	2.2	49.6	62.0	+25
District of Columbia	9.5	3.3	7.8	6.2	1.4	1.8	76.0	87.5	+15
Florida	56.7	76.8	57.4	67.6	57.0	51.6	650.9	746.9	+15
Georgia	20.1	28.6	21.9	16.2	30.3	12.3	267.8	275.5	+ 3
Idaho	1.4	3.2	4.1	3.2	5.1	2.3	30.5	36.5	+20
Illinois	70.2	137.7	135.3	99.5	81.2	59.5	986.7	1,261.6	+28
Indiana	20.0	29.7	40.9	30.2	32.8	19.0	340.6	380.4	+12
Iowa	7.8	16.9	15.3	17.4	12.2	7.3	141.4	180.1	+27
Kansas	13.8	13.7	12.1	30.0	10.9	7.7	168.8	195.4	+16
Kentucky	6.6	22.8	17.4	13.0	10.8	24.9	170.8	189.2	+11
Louisiana	16.3	25.4	24.5	21.2	19.4	16.0	218.6	292.6	+34
Maine	4.7	2.9	2.8	3.3	3.1	2.5	30.2	29.8	- 1
Maryland	30.9	41.3	37.4	30.8	30.6	32.1	406.4	494.4	+22
Massachusetts	27.7	35.9	40.8	43.2	29.1	24.3	393.0	445.1	+13
Michigan	69.7	124.3	109.9	109.1	71.8	58.0	1,010.2	1,128.0	+12
Minnesota	25.0	45.9	43.5	32.0	25.9	14.3	358.1	402.8	+12
Mississippi	7.7	4.3	3.9	3.9	3.0	3.2	62.4	50.2	-20
Missouri	23.5	33.7	33.9	26.5	22.6	19.9	304.6	336.4	+10
Montana	2.9	4.8	5.3	3.8	2.1	2.3	39.7	41.7	+ 5
Nebraska	4.5	7.7	8.3	8.5	5.2	7.0	78.0	100.7	+29
Nevada	8.7	3.8	4.6	5.1	6.3	7.4	82.0	75.3	- 8
New Hampshire	4.4	6.7	3.2	2.8	2.6	1.7	27.6	41.2	+49
New Jersey	49.4	64.7	77.0	76.1	63.7	48.7	687.7	832.3	+21
New Mexico	3.7	7.6	7.1	5.9	4.7	5.5	72.3	85.7	+19
New York	102.0	116.5	113.1	113.1	113.0	91.5	1,416.2	1,485.1	+ 5
North Carolina	13.6	18.8	16.5	15.1	13.0	13.5	182.2	216.0	+19
North Dakota	1.1	3.5	5.0	2.8	2.2	.5	29.8	35.6	+19
Ohio	66.9	146.0	115.1	91.4	87.9	66.5	985.8	1,210.5	+23
Oklahoma	8.8	14.9	9.7	8.7	7.8	8.7	137.4	148.9	+ 8
Oregon	9.7	17.2	14.9	10.4	8.1	6.4	150.9	157.2	+ 4
Pennsylvania	44.1	74.3	81.9	65.3	70.3	40.2	734.8	872.1	+19
Rhode Island	2.1	4.1	3.4	3.1	4.5	4.0	44.7	49.0	+10
South Carolina	5.9	7.0	9.8	6.6	6.5	5.7	67.3	94.5	+40
South Dakota	1.8	4.3	3.6	4.3	1.9	.9	32.7	36.9	+13
Tennessee	13.2	22.6	15.5	16.0	14.6	14.2	209.9	219.5	+ 5
Texas	87.5	87.5	76.2	83.0	65.9	62.6	946.4	1,024.6	+ 8
Utah	4.9	15.0	8.0	9.3	9.2	4.9	105.1	118.7	+13
Vermont	.8	2.0	.5	.6	.7	.3	9.3	11.3	+22
Virginia	25.7	39.8	33.5	42.5	29.3	28.3	420.9	470.4	+12
Washington	31.2	36.1	32.6	25.7	21.8	20.0	375.5	381.0	+ 1
West Virginia	2.6	5.4	7.0	6.9	4.0	3.2	65.1	67.4	+ 4
Wisconsin	23.0	43.9	37.0	42.3	31.3	21.3	401.5	438.8	+ 9
Wyoming	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.2	.9	.7	23.2	18.6	-20

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 17.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, by Metropolitan-Nonmetropolitan Location and by State

(Housekeeping units only)

State	1954	1955					Year		Percent change, Year 1954-55
	Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
ALL STATES	77,394	108,115	96,410	89,428	70,136	57,314	1,074,512	1,147,434	+ 7
Metropolitan areas	63,218	85,860	74,831	69,590	53,892	44,649	860,736	907,813	+ 5
Nonmetropolitan areas	14,176	22,255	21,579	19,838	16,244	12,665	213,776	239,521	+12
Alabama	724	1,250	1,188	1,141	701	765	12,473	13,442	+ 8
Arizona	1,208	1,179	936	883	949	1,046	11,810	13,803	+17
Arkansas	313	334	257	349	309	266	4,157	4,237	+ 2
California	18,456	19,139	16,768	16,918	12,855	11,619	199,421	212,493	+ 7
Colorado	1,654	1,648	1,823	1,484	1,413	1,099	18,661	20,183	+ 8
Connecticut	994	1,520	1,443	1,186	1,160	1,026	17,398	17,871	+ 3
Delaware	111	188	460	412	203	103	3,379	4,112	+15
District of Columbia	324	107	150	117	97	94	2,984	2,796	- 6
Florida	4,085	4,942	4,090	4,343	3,840	3,793	48,887	53,069	+ 9
Georgia	1,688	1,874	1,522	1,285	1,179	1,020	20,976	19,668	- 6
Idaho	94	189	237	133	113	77	1,652	1,895	+15
Illinois	3,634	8,369	6,902	4,875	4,054	2,555	54,275	67,753	+25
Indiana	928	1,823	2,727	1,585	1,084	981	21,306	21,185	- 1
Iowa	506	952	821	813	673	309	8,017	9,627	+20
Kansas	1,014	926	707	643	578	453	11,223	10,318	- 8
Kentucky	520	1,807	1,221	844	903	942	10,823	13,127	+21
Louisiana	907	1,018	1,376	1,116	1,070	825	13,645	14,552	+ 7
Maine	52	146	164	168	88	78	1,235	1,483	+20
Maryland	2,451	2,662	2,343	1,937	1,942	1,717	31,223	30,404	- 3
Massachusetts	1,460	2,060	2,578	2,066	1,592	1,343	22,330	25,203	+13
Michigan	2,896	6,836	5,612	5,681	3,680	2,650	59,543	61,927	+ 4
Minnesota	1,043	1,908	2,136	1,375	1,189	506	17,438	18,654	+ 7
Mississippi	364	293	357	265	262	206	4,262	3,694	-13
Missouri	939	1,752	1,677	1,214	869	751	16,355	17,180	+ 5
Montana	121	198	198	212	78	31	1,953	1,989	+ 2
Nebraska	391	572	412	438	367	222	5,482	5,849	+ 7
Nevada	221	257	231	300	467	143	4,642	3,917	-16
New Hampshire	105	230	235	201	167	114	1,686	2,256	+34
New Jersey	2,671	4,592	4,770	4,454	3,431	2,544	48,162	53,052	+10
New Mexico	297	549	474	490	299	260	6,464	6,232	- 4
New York	6,573	8,408	7,247	8,412	5,200	4,997	89,645	93,882	+ 5
North Carolina	849	1,058	1,046	1,015	815	824	12,036	13,270	+10
North Dakota	40	180	211	188	63	17	1,728	1,640	- 5
Ohio	3,690	7,155	6,020	4,735	3,422	2,215	54,680	60,588	+11
Oklahoma	681	784	770	488	463	565	10,392	9,789	- 6
Oregon	541	768	679	500	365	240	7,952	7,559	- 5
Pennsylvania	1,965	4,048	3,413	3,514	2,851	1,514	37,954	44,558	+17
Rhode Island	190	310	216	221	335	191	3,359	3,485	+ 4
South Carolina	343	426	395	484	380	291	4,790	5,351	+12
South Dakota	105	224	246	258	118	44	2,172	2,314	+ 7
Tennessee	1,288	1,541	1,187	1,085	940	689	16,084	16,836	+ 5
Texas	5,635	5,560	4,676	5,032	4,387	3,661	68,478	69,214	+ 1
Utah	322	998	446	599	586	362	6,828	7,555	+11
Vermont	11	51	30	29	27	19	316	350	+11
Virginia	1,649	2,790	2,100	2,339	1,791	1,918	29,999	32,309	+ 8
Washington	1,980	1,940	1,520	1,290	1,008	1,073	21,411	21,042	- 2
West Virginia	104	307	311	242	208	163	2,876	3,221	+12
Wisconsin	1,153	2,095	1,976	1,973	1,514	949	20,125	21,283	+ 6
Wyoming	104	152	106	96	51	44	1,625	1,217	-25

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 18.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Millions of dollars)

Metropolitan area	1954	1955					Year		Percent change, year 1954-55
	Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	12.6	21.3	14.6	9.4	10.4	7.3	167.2	169.9	+ 2
Baltimore, Md.	14.3	19.5	17.2	17.0	18.5	15.5	223.5	261.3	+17
Birmingham, Ala.	2.7	6.3	7.3	5.8	6.4	5.2	50.9	72.8	+43
Boston, Mass.	13.4	18.7	18.1	23.8	15.0	14.1	219.6	240.3	+ 9
Buffalo, N. Y.	6.8	14.2	16.2	13.4	11.2	11.4	145.7	167.8	+15
Chicago, Ill.	65.9	122.5	112.9	93.5	72.4	54.7	882.4	1,119.6	+27
Cleveland, Ohio	20.6	40.2	36.4	29.3	27.4	16.0	290.5	360.4	+24
Columbus, Ohio	10.0	27.9	11.0	9.6	10.4	10.8	122.9	152.8	+24
Denver, Colo.	17.7	13.9	11.8	15.3	13.2	9.9	165.1	169.6	+ 3
Detroit, Mich.	54.0	85.5	76.2	69.9	45.8	40.4	691.9	756.4	+ 9
Indianapolis, Ind.	7.6	8.4	11.0	7.8	5.4	7.0	115.5	105.5	- 9
Los Angeles, Calif.	120.6	162.5	120.6	123.3	88.9	95.2	1,326.5	1,533.9	+16
Memphis, Tenn.	4.7	5.3	4.2	5.3	5.6	2.9	81.3	75.6	- 7
Miami, Fla.	19.9	28.4	17.0	22.6	16.9	17.2	234.4	260.4	+11
Milwaukee, Wis.	13.2	19.3	12.5	15.7	13.6	11.6	194.3	178.5	- 8
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	117.0	119.4	123.3	123.3	120.1	90.2	1,489.8	1,549.4	+ 4
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	3.6	3.8	3.5	5.5	4.9	3.9	67.7	66.5	- 2
Phoenix, Ariz.	9.4	9.1	7.0	6.6	8.1	9.5	96.2	108.5	+13
Rochester, N. Y.	4.8	6.1	6.2	5.1	8.4	4.7	63.1	84.9	+35
Salt Lake City, Utah	2.3	8.5	4.6	4.8	4.8	2.2	57.6	60.3	+ 5
San Diego, Calif.	11.5	13.9	12.4	12.4	13.5	12.2	147.4	167.5	+14
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	30.3	49.4	39.4	42.0	41.1	33.1	411.6	513.8	+25
Seattle, Wash.	16.1	18.6	13.9	10.7	10.9	8.6	170.9	172.4	+ 1
Washington, D. C.	33.0	29.9	31.6	27.7	16.1	22.6	329.0	394.5	+20

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 19.--Building Permit Activity: Number of New Dwelling Units, in Selected Metropolitan Areas

(Housekeeping only)

Metropolitan area	1954	1955					Year		Percent change, year 1954-55
	Dec.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1954	1955	
Atlanta, Ga.	988	1,186	964	664	643	552	12,539	11,521	- 8
Baltimore, Md.	990	1,304	919	1,052	1,219	985	15,464	15,340	- 1
Birmingham, Ala.	284	564	503	412	285	296	4,752	5,314	+12
Boston, Mass.	748	1,035	933	921	658	677	10,745	11,444	+ 7
Buffalo, N. Y.	421	1,075	1,054	769	520	393	8,864	10,902	+23
Chicago, Ill.	3,238	7,555	5,862	4,396	3,518	2,281	49,005	60,062	+23
Cleveland, Ohio	1,130	1,756	1,508	1,263	868	563	13,379	15,718	+17
Columbus, Ohio	457	946	578	572	348	393	7,291	7,642	+ 5
Denver, Colo.	1,201	993	945	771	873	688	12,704	13,091	+ 3
Detroit, Mich.	1,976	4,559	3,481	3,602	2,515	1,714	40,966	40,511	- 1
Indianapolis, Ind.	272	511	787	367	341	396	6,693	6,134	- 8
Los Angeles, Calif.	9,772	9,037	8,417	7,735	4,632	5,775	104,082	103,720	(1)
Memphis, Tenn.	647	448	395	242	409	202	6,962	6,854	- 2
Miami, Fla.	1,029	1,648	1,190	1,327	1,021	933	16,175	16,362	+ 1
Milwaukee, Wis.	651	825	612	802	589	565	9,522	8,358	-12
New York-Northeastern New Jersey	6,922	8,190	7,493	8,742	5,278	5,288	94,346	96,637	+ 2
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	299	341	234	425	334	282	6,576	5,803	-12
Phoenix, Ariz.	971	793	709	626	720	774	8,918	10,130	+14
Rochester, N. Y.	394	427	429	262	291	201	4,121	4,683	+14
Salt Lake City, Utah	127	578	205	299	386	66	4,093	4,061	- 1
San Diego, Calif.	858	904	1,014	945	897	783	10,207	11,429	+12
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	2,280	2,955	2,481	2,723	1,946	1,511	28,388	32,058	+13
Seattle, Wash.	956	1,005	709	657	519	462	9,937	9,874	- 1
Washington, D. C.	2,263	1,627	1,829	1,483	953	1,103	23,909	22,215	- 7

Source: Department of Labor. [1]Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 20.--Building Permit Activity: Valuation in Selected Metropolitan Areas by Type of Building Construction

December 1955 *(Thousands of dollars)*

Type of building construction	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Birmingham, Ala.	Boston, Mass.	Buffalo, N. Y.	Chicago, Ill.	Cleveland, Ohio	Columbus, Ohio
All building construction [1]	7,328	15,502	5,155	14,124	11,389	54,694	16,012	10,766
New dwelling units [2]	4,742	10,840	2,522	7,724	3,664	31,733	9,449	5,419
New nonresidential building	1,806	2,860	1,999	4,748	7,030	18,556	4,893	3,804
Commercial buildings	830	2,386	684	1,520	1,322	4,054	1,941	2,556
Amusement buildings	10	229	0	157	0	40	0	0
Commercial garages	203	18	0	84	17	320	33	45
Gasoline and service stations	108	69	12	80	114	302	72	67
Office buildings	158	94	0	539	516	1,462	553	2,036
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	350	1,977	672	660	676	1,929	1,283	408
Community buildings	642	212	1,070	1,923	893	4,133	290	380
Educational buildings	552	0	1,070	1,923	813	2,499	240	0
Institutional buildings	0	40	0	0	0	1,090	0	0
Religious buildings	90	172	0	0	80	544	50	380
Garages, private residential	6	33	11	64	60	460	89	37
Industrial buildings	262	111	228	991	1,323	5,299	2,500	792
Public buildings	0	11	0	0	0	3,871	0	25
Public utilities buildings	44	35	0	236	2,766	557	15	1
All other nonresidential buildings	22	71	5	13	665	181	58	13
Additions, alterations, and repairs	705	1,801	634	1,652	695	4,279	1,379	1,462

Type of building construction	Denver, Colo.	Detroit, Mich.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Memphis, Tenn.	Miami, Fla.	Milwaukee, Wis.	New York-Northeastern New Jersey
All building construction [1]	9,912	40,372	7,041	95,183	2,904	17,210	11,640	90,161
New dwelling units [2]	5,830	20,966	4,062	57,494	1,452	9,044	6,763	60,490
New nonresidential building	3,355	15,663	2,604	26,742	1,056	6,524	4,044	23,254
Commercial buildings	334	2,647	762	11,200	116	2,879	578	11,016
Amusement buildings	0	124	0	175	15	113	250	360
Commercial garages	73	0	0	68	0	0	2	302
Gasoline and service stations	39	165	225	221	0	137	38	564
Office buildings	0	848	140	4,667	0	300	0	6,547
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	222	1,510	397	6,069	101	2,329	288	3,244
Community buildings	1,354	10,621	1,174	6,424	790	1,546	2,548	3,476
Educational buildings	1,236	9,186	1,004	5,552	515	1,519	2,548	1,530
Institutional buildings	0	30	0	141	275	0	0	288
Religious buildings	118	1,406	170	731	0	27	0	1,658
Garages, private residential	64	253	58	655	59	63	73	585
Industrial buildings	362	1,308	450	4,150	8	351	211	6,155
Public buildings	1,191	16	0	271	0	1,340	625	1,319
Public utilities buildings	20	747	73	1,353	0	211	3	358
All other nonresidential buildings	30	70	87	2,689	83	134	7	344
Additions, alterations, and repairs	727	3,687	375	10,363	396	1,471	833	6,240

Type of building construction	Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	Phoenix, Ariz.	Rochester, N. Y.	Salt Lake City, Utah	San Diego, Calif.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D. C.
All building construction [1]	3,887	9,481	4,672	2,182	12,244	33,107	8,604	22,602
New dwelling units [2]	1,703	6,392	2,628	1,234	8,081	16,705	5,355	12,074
New nonresidential building	1,612	2,571	1,652	701	3,096	13,386	1,945	9,192
Commercial buildings	1,554	1,455	109	161	547	2,889	498	1,492
Amusement buildings	754	32	10	0	0	431	0	129
Commercial garages	0	9	9	0	0	69	0	0
Gasoline and service stations	56	132	9	56	49	217	10	184
Office buildings	6	108	0	55	148	728	378	538
Stores and other mercantile bldgs.	738	1,173	81	50	349	1,444	110	642
Community buildings	30	663	1,081	139	483	6,407	238	2,162
Educational buildings	0	651	1,081	139	215	5,055	150	1,957
Institutional buildings	0	0	0	0	120	1,058	0	0
Religious buildings	30	12	0	0	148	294	88	205
Garages, private residential	13	14	28	25	149	119	29	31
Industrial buildings	9	50	278	15	297	1,101	523	1,173
Public buildings	0	0	0	0	1,242	2,379	219	569
Public utilities buildings	2	115	153	326	233	391	378	1,284
All other nonresidential buildings	4	275	2	36	146	101	60	2,480
Additions, alterations, and repairs	571	508	391	247	998	2,628	1,304	1,337

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes new nonhousekeeping residential building, not shown separately. [2] Housekeeping only.

Part IV--Contract Awards

Table 21.--Contract Awards: Public Construction, by Ownership and Type of Construction [1]

Ownership and type of construction [2]	Value (*in millions of dollars*)									Percent change, January 1955-56
	1955							1956	Year	
	Jan.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	1955	
ALL PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION	521.6	709.5	723.5	740.4	677.4	660.4	931.5	805.8	8,953.8	+54
FEDERALLY OWNED	82.5	47.8	60.6	129.1	98.7	107.2	180.0	112.6	1,499.9	+36
Residential building	0	1.2	1.3	.1	.1	2.6	33.5	3.0	60.7	(3)
Nonresidential building	44.8	28.3	36.6	65.6	36.4	39.5	76.6	47.4	845.2	+ 6
Educational	(4)	.8	.2	4.6	.1	1.4	10.9	.2	20.9	--
Hospital and institutional	6.8	1.2	4.0	3.3	1.1	.3	.7	5.5	77.5	-19
Administrative and general	3.8	1.4	2.4	20.9	3.6	4.1	6.1	2.2	66.1	-42
Other nonresidential building	34.2	24.9	30.0	36.8	31.6	33.7	58.9	39.5	680.7	+15
Airfield building	14.8	1.5	.4	1.8	3.4	4.3	4.9	11.9	102.8	-20
Industrial	6.8	10.4	10.3	16.6	18.7	15.0	28.0	9.6	297.3	+41
Troop housing	3.7	.6	3.1	1.5	2.8	3.5	6.3	10.9	53.8	+195
Warehouses	1.5	7.8	9.6	2.9	2.8	2.3	4.7	1.2	83.9	-20
All other	7.4	4.6	6.6	14.0	3.9	8.6	15.0	5.9	142.9	-20
Airfields	22.3	3.1	3.6	4.8	9.2	15.3	24.6	15.3	156.4	-31
Conservation and development	6.1	9.4	8.9	49.1	42.5	24.6	23.9	40.4	268.7	(3)
Highway	2.8	4.5	4.8	6.3	4.2	2.4	3.8	1.9	58.5	-32
Electric power	1.3	.5	1.8	.7	2.6	3.5	8.9	2.0	38.8	+54
All other federally owned	5.2	.8	3.6	2.5	3.7	19.3	8.7	2.6	71.6	-50
STATE AND LOCALLY OWNED	439.1	661.7	662.9	611.3	578.7	553.2	751.5	693.2	7,453.9	+58
Residential building	7.9	18.1	27.5	17.7	18.7	14.3	11.7	10.5	210.1	+33
Nonresidential building	224.3	284.9	219.0	208.2	230.6	192.7	286.7	254.9	2,851.4	+14
Educational	132.1	215.7	146.2	159.7	165.8	139.3	236.1	192.8	2,107.2	+46
Hospital and institutional	20.3	15.5	14.0	16.9	19.9	10.5	13.4	35.5	195.3	+75
Administrative and general	28.0	22.5	35.5	13.2	27.3	13.8	23.2	10.3	263.0	-63
Other nonresidential building	43.9	31.2	23.3	18.4	17.6	29.1	14.0	16.3	285.9	-63
Highway	121.4	255.8	282.0	242.1	215.1	229.9	320.7	246.3	2,933.5	+103
Sewerage systems	35.8	38.7	43.2	65.8	35.6	24.7	53.2	114.6	501.9	+220
Water supply facilities	27.6	26.5	39.4	37.0	35.7	58.8	35.2	29.1	393.6	+ 5
Utilities	12.7	28.0	40.3	24.2	29.2	26.2	32.4	29.1	433.8	+129
Electric power	4.3	4.7	21.1	9.7	15.4	18.5	11.9	15.4	247.4	+258
Other utilities	8.4	23.3	19.2	14.5	13.8	7.7	20.5	13.7	186.4	+63
All other State and locally owned	9.4	9.7	11.5	16.3	13.8	6.6	11.6	8.7	129.6	- 7

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes major force-account projects started, principally by TVA and State highway departments. [2] Types not shown separately are included in the appropriate "other" category. [3] Percent increase exceeds 300. [4] Less than $50,000.

Table 22.--Contract Awards: Highway Construction, by Ownership, Source of Funds, and Type of Facility [1]

Ownership, source of funds, and type of facility	Value (*in millions of dollars*)									Percent change, January 1955-56
	1955							1956	Year	
	Jan.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	1955	
ALL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	124.2	260.3	286.8	248.4	219.3	232.3	324.5	248.1	2,992.0	+100
FEDERALLY OWNED	2.8	4.5	4.8	6.3	4.2	2.4	3.8	1.9	58.5	-32
STATE OWNED	107.2	204.3	242.2	207.1	189.2	211.4	301.5	227.9	2,559.8	+113
Federally aided projects:										
Total value	50.5	115.3	140.2	114.0	95.3	111.7	115.4	154.7	1,256.2	+206
Federal funds	27.3	61.4	72.0	59.3	51.6	59.8	62.2	77.2	667.4	+183
Independent State projects:										
Total value	56.7	89.0	102.0	93.1	94.0	99.8	186.1	73.2	1,303.8	+29
Toll facilities	32.9	30.0	45.2	38.8	41.8	40.7	141.5	37.8	694.9	+15
LOCALLY OWNED [2]	14.2	51.5	39.8	35.0	25.9	18.5	19.2	18.3	373.7	+29

Source: Departments of Commerce and Labor. [1] Includes force-account work started on Federal and State projects. [2] By municipalities and counties.

Chart 7.

Contracts Awarded on Public Construction

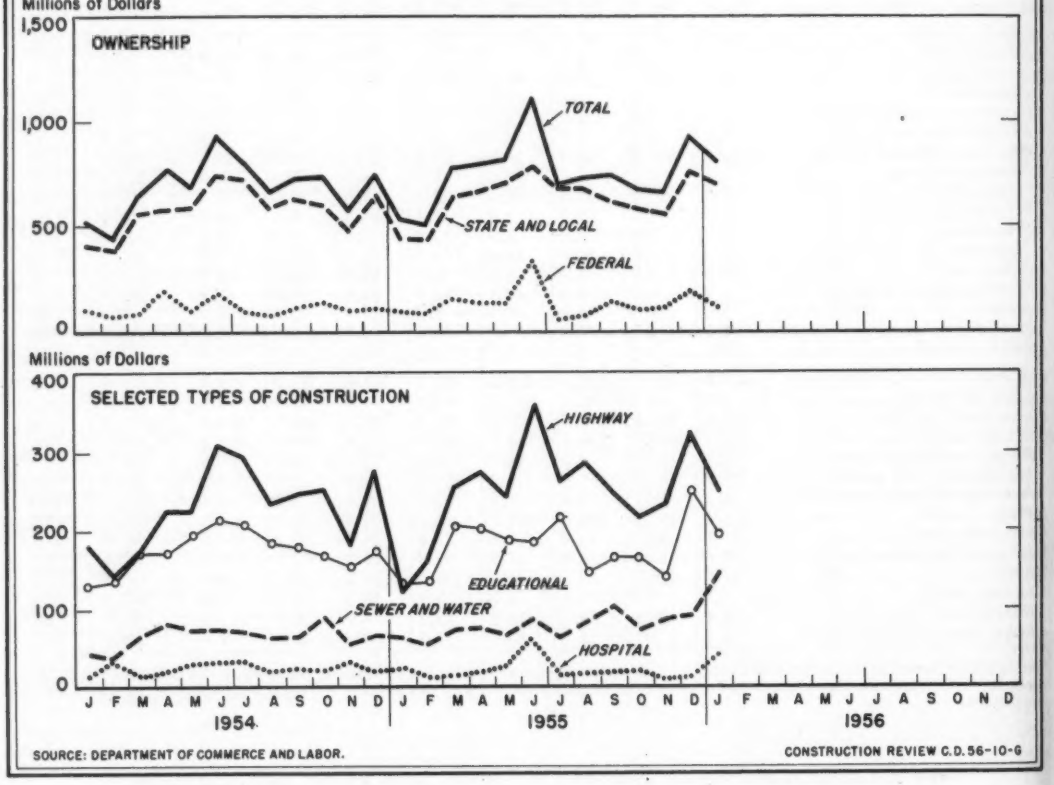


Table 23.--Contracts Awarded in 37 Eastern States

Type of construction	Value *(in millions of dollars)*			Percent change		
				February 1956 from--		
	February 1956	January 1956	First 2 months, 1956	January 1956	February 1955	First 2 months, 1955-56
TOTAL	**1,860**	**1,858**	**3,718**	(1)	**+18**	**+21**
Building construction	1,429	1,355	2,785	+ 5	+12	+11
Residential	799	694	1,494	+15	+ 7	+ 6
Nonresidential	630	661	1,291	- 5	+18	+17
Engineering	431	503	933	-14	+42	+69
Public works	338	356	693	- 5	+36	+64
Utilities	93	147	240	-37	+70	+84

Source: Compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by F. W. Dodge Corporation. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 24.--Construction Cost Indexes

Compiler and coverage	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, Feb. 1955-56
	1955				1956		1953	1954	1955	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Feb.	Feb.	
American Appraisal Company	130.6	131.1	131.5	131.7	132.3	132.6	120.6	124.5	127.4	+ 4
Associated General Contractors	136.4	137.3	137.9	137.9	139.8	139.8	123.1	129.6	133.6	+ 5
E. H. Boeckh and Associates (20 city average):										
Residences	125.2	125.5	125.7	126.0	126.4	127.5	120.1	119.5	121.5	+ 5
Apartments, hotels, and office buildings	132.3	132.6	132.9	133.3	133.9	134.4	123.7	125.9	128.0	+ 5
Commercial and factory buildings	133.8	134.1	134.3	134.8	135.3	135.9	124.0	126.5	129.0	+ 5
Engineering News-Record										
Building	142.0	141.8	141.6	142.1	142.9	142.9	125.7	129.2	135.9	+ 5
Construction	148.8	148.6	148.6	149.3	150.1	150.1	129.8	135.5	142.5	+ 5
Department of Commerce composite [1]	126.5	126.7	126.8	127.0	127.7	128.5	120.7	120.8	122.7	+ 5

Source: Department of Commerce. [1] A composite of cost indexes representative of the major types of construction, weighted by the current relative importance of each type.

Table 25.--Indexes of Wholesale Prices of Building Materials, by Selected Classes

Commodity	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									Percent change, Feb. 1955-56
	1955				1956		1953	1954	1955	
	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb.	Feb.	Feb.	
ALL BUILDING MATERIALS [1]	128.5	128.7	128.1	128.3	129.4	129.7	118.7	119.2	122.5	+ 6
LUMBER AND WOOD PRODUCTS:										
Lumber	127.1	126.8	126.4	126.4	127.6	128.2	120.3	115.5	121.4	+ 6
Douglas fir	134.7	132.4	130.1	130.8	133.9	133.2	122.7	112.0	127.2	+ 5
Southern pine	116.6	117.0	117.4	116.8	117.0	117.6	118.3	109.5	114.9	+ 2
Other softwoods	138.6	138.5	138.5	137.4	137.7	139.2	131.0	129.9	133.8	+ 4
Hardwoods	121.3	122.3	122.9	123.5	124.5	125.4	112.3	113.9	113.3	+11
Millwork	128.2	128.2	127.9	128.8	129.2	129.1	131.9	131.1	129.0	(2)
Plywood	106.1	106.1	105.9	105.7	107.5	107.5	110.9	105.0	104.8	+ 3
Softwood	110.7	110.7	108.9	108.4	112.1	112.1	115.4	109.3	110.5	+ 1
Hardwood	103.6	103.4	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	107.8	101.9	100.9	+ 4
PAINT AND PAINT MATERIALS:										
Prepared paint	114.8	115.0	115.0	115.8	117.0	119.1	110.5	112.8	113.1	+ 5
Paint materials	97.6	97.4	97.1	97.4	98.6	100.4	95.2	95.2	96.1	+ 5
METAL PRODUCTS:										
Structural shapes	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	157.5	134.9	141.3	146.2	+ 8
Hardware, finish	140.8	143.9	143.9	143.9	143.4	143.4	122.3	137.5	139.0	+ 3
Plumbing equipment	128.1	129.4	133.1	133.1	133.1	133.1	114.3	118.2	118.7	+12
Enameled iron fixtures	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	131.9	124.8	129.2	129.3	+ 2
Vitreous china fixtures	122.9	123.1	124.1	124.1	124.1	124.1	103.2	111.7	111.7	+11
Brass fittings	129.4	131.7	138.1	138.1	138.1	138.1	113.3	115.9	117.1	+18
Heating equipment	117.2	117.3	117.4	117.1	117.3	117.1	113.9	114.8	113.7	+ 3
Furnaces	123.2	123.2	123.2	123.5	123.8	123.8	116.6	120.3	120.2	+ 3
Water heaters	112.0	112.0	112.0	108.9	108.9	108.0	111.9	109.7	107.7	(2)
Metal sash	146.4	146.3	146.3	146.3	146.3	146.3	117.7	127.3	132.5	+10
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS:										
Glass, plate	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	120.9	132.0	132.0	+ 4
Glass, window	138.8	145.5	138.8	138.8	138.8	138.8	118.0	131.3	131.3	+ 6
Concrete ingredients	125.3	125.6	125.6	126.0	129.7	129.9	113.1	119.8	123.9	+ 5
Portland cement	131.7	132.2	132.3	132.3	138.5	138.5	116.4	124.8	129.9	+ 7
Concrete products	119.8	120.2	120.2	120.2	121.1	121.1	112.8	117.6	117.0	+ 4
Structural clay products	143.9	144.3	144.5	144.6	145.3	145.6	124.0	131.9	136.1	+ 7
Gypsum products	122.1	122.1	122.1	122.1	127.1	127.1	117.7	122.1	122.1	+ 4
Asphalt roofing	114.6	114.4	101.0	101.0	99.6	99.6	106.0	109.9	100.4	- 1
Insulation materials	107.1	107.1	105.7	105.8	105.7	105.5	107.3	110.1	106.7	- 1
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS:										
Building board	132.7	133.3	133.3	133.3	133.3	133.3	118.2	127.9	129.4	+ 3
Kitchen cabinets, metal	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	136.5	125.2	127.5	128.2	+ 7

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes items not shown separately. [2] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials

Commodity	Unit	1956	1955	
		Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
LUMBER				
Douglas fir:				
Dimension, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, 2"x4", R.L., mixed c/l, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	$76.986	$72.891	$70.952
Boards, No. 1, 25% No. 2, green, S4S, R.L., 1"x8", loose, mixed c/l of boards and dimension, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	70.597	67.155	65.296
Timbers, No. 1, 8"x8" to 12"x12", R.L., green, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	83.423	82.304	71.997
Southern pine:				
Dimension, No. 2 and better, 2"x4"x16', dry, S.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	83.229	83.258	81.497
Boards, No. 2 and better, 1"x6", dry, R.L., S4S, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	80.588	80.679	78.480
Ponderosa pine boards, No. 3 common, 1"x8", R.L., S2 or 4S, c/l or mixed cars, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	79.430	78.830	72.260
Oak, red, flooring, plain, 25/32" thick, 2-1/4" face, select, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	197.414	197.414	171.907
Maple flooring, 2d grade, 25/32" x2-1/4" face, f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	191.957	193.278	176.628
Poplar, plain, No. 2B common, 4/4", R.W., f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	58.000	56.000	55.000
Beech, No. 2 common, 4/4", R.W. & L., f.o.b. mill	*M bd. ft.*	52.000	52.000	47.000
MILLWORK				
Door, Douglas fir, interior, 2 plywood panels, 2'6"x6'8"x1-3/8", f.o.b. factory	*Each*	4.477	4.477	4.829
Door frame, ponderosa pine, exterior, 1-5/16"x2" casing, with sill, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	9.398	9.351	9.214
Window, ponderosa pine, 2-light, check rail, open, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	1.684	1.665	1.648
PLYWOOD				
Douglas fir, interior, grade A-D, 1/4"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	*M sq. ft.*	84.279	81.738	80.807
Douglas fir, interior, grade C-D, 5/16"x48"x96", f.o.b. mill	*M sq. ft.*	66.177	64.005	70.660
BOARD				
Insulation, fiber, 1/2"x48"x96", interior, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	55.500	55.500	53.000
PREPARED PAINT				
Emulsion, water-thinned, inside, delivered	*Gallon*	2.486	2.437	2.372
Varnish, floor, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	3.816	3.805	3.682
Enamel, white, gloss, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	4.704	4.655	4.497
Inside, flat, white, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	3.041	3.000	2.879
Outside, white, first grade, delivered	*Gallon*	4.418	4.369	4.342
METAL PRODUCTS				
Structural shapes, carbon steel, 6"x4"x1/2" angles, 30' long, ASTM spec. A-7, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb.*	4.867	4.867	4.517
Bars, reinforcing, carbon steel, 3/4" rounds x 30' long with 10% shorts, spec. ASTM A-15, 50T, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb.*	5.313	5.313	4.963
Sheets, galvanized, carbon steel, 24 gage x 30" wide x 96" long, commercial coating, base chemistry, base packaging, base quantity, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb.*	7.770	7.690	7.220
Pipe, standard, black, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	*100 ft.*	16.997	16.491	15.000
Pipe, standard, galvanized, carbon steel, buttweld, threaded and coupled, 1-1/4" nominal, random lengths, wt. 228 lbs., f.o.b. mill	*100 ft.*	21.137	20.134	18.605
Nails, wire, carbon steel, 8-penny, common, c/l, f.o.b. mill	*100 lb. keg*	8.595	8.595	7.815
Soil pipe, cast iron, 2" to 6", single and double hub, service pipe, extra heavy, f.o.b. foundry, index number (1947-49 = 100)	*Ton*	(111.3)	(111.3)	(108.4)
Aluminum sheets, 3003-H14, hard alloy, mill finish, 0.64"x48"x144", 30,000 lbs. or over, f.o.b. shipping point, freight allowed	*Pound*	$0.393	$0.393	(1)
Copper water tubing, type L, 3/4" size, 0.045" thick, 2,000 ft. or more in 60' coils (0.455 lbs. per linear ft.), f.o.b. mill, freight allowed	*Foot*	.324	.323	$0.253
Wire, building, type R, size 12, single braid, f.o.b. destination, or freight prepaid on specified amounts	*M ft.*	18.105	17.510	12.495
Screening, insect, bronze wire, 18x14 mesh, 30" wide, c/l, f.o.b. factory	*Linear ft. roll*	30.780	30.780	24.380
PLUMBING EQUIPMENT				
Bath tub, enameled iron, 5', recessed, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	55.113	55.113	53.841
Lavatory, enameled iron, 20"x18", f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	*Each*	13.497	13.500	12.858
Water closet, vitreous china, close coupled, reverse trap, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	*Each*	24.661	24.661	21.787
Sink, enameled steel, 32"x21", flat rim, 2-compartment, acid resisting, without drainboard, f.o.b. plant, freight allowed	*Each*	16.634	16.634	16.058

See footnotes at end of table.

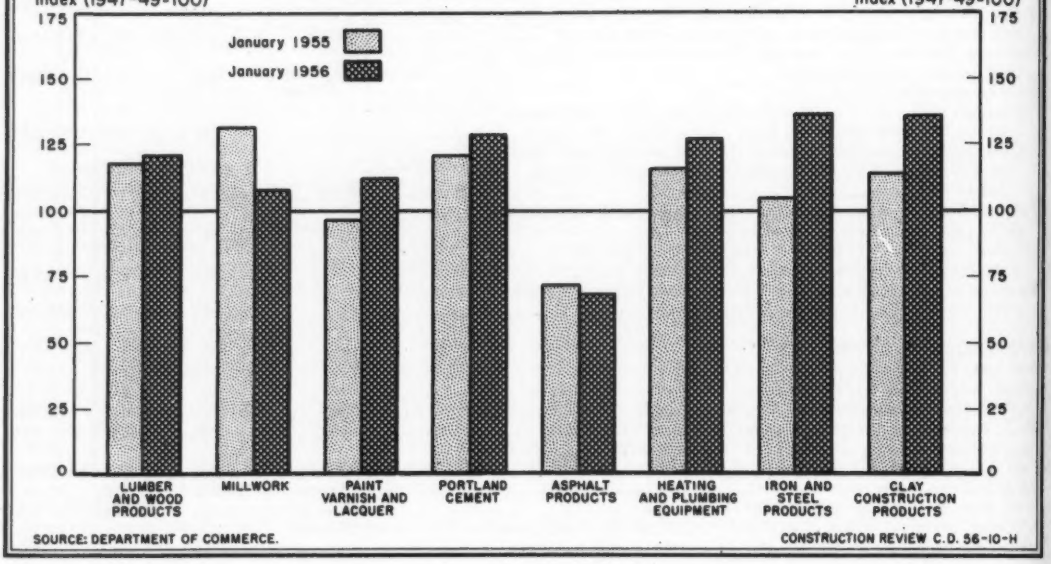
Table 26.--Wholesale Prices of Selected Building Materials--Continued

Commodity	Unit	1956	1955	
		Jan.	Dec.	Jan.
HEATING EQUIPMENT				
Boiler, heating, steel, oil fired, steam rating 400 sq. ft., less burner, with jacket and standard trim, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	$186.122	$186.122	$186.618
Convector, nonferrous, free standing, average steam rating 43 sq. ft., E.D.R., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Sq. ft., incl. enclosure*	.446	.447	.433
Furnace, warm air:				
Steel, oil fired, forced air, gun-type burner, average bonnet output 90,000-115,000 BTU per hr., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Each*	247.575	247.575	252.052
Steel, gas fired, standard automatic controls, average input rating 85,000-110,000 BTU per hr., enclosing jacket, f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Each*	166.051	166.051	165.091
Furnace, floor, gas fired, floor grill, average input rating 40,000-60,000 BTU per hr., manual controls, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	57.217	56.392	56.967
Oil burner, mechanical forced draft (gun-type), 2-1/2 gal. per hr., thermostat, limit and stack controls, f.o.b. factory	*Each*	100.961	100.620	104.245
Water heater, gas, automatic, 30-gal. storage tank, galvanized steel, 1-year guarantee, f.o.b. factory, freight allowed	*Each*	40.954	40.954	38.350
NONMETALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTS				
Sand, construction, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.215	1.199	1.154
Gravel, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.492	1.443	1.384
Crushed stone, for concrete, 1-1/2" maximum, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	1.617	1.610	1.549
Block, concrete, lightweight aggregate, 8"x8"x16", f.o.b. plant	*Each*	.178	.177	.174
Pipe, concrete, culvert, reinforced, 24" diameter, ASTM spec. C76-41 table 1, 3" wall thickness, 3'-8' lengths, delivered	*Foot*	3.910	3.910	3.646
Brick, building, f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	30.092	30.018	28.642
Brick, face, red, first quality, textured, f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	38.748	38.415	37.050
Tile, clay, partition, scored, 4"x12"x12", 3-cell, 16 lbs., f.o.b. plant	*Thousand*	134.556	130.431	125.734
Sewer pipe, vitrified clay, 8" diameter, 3' lengths, standard strength, f.o.b. plant	*Foot*	.510	.504	.457
Lath, gypsum, 3/8"x16''x48", f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	24.990	24.010	24.010
Wallboard, gypsum, 3/8"x48", varying lengths, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*M sq. ft.*	32.830	31.850	31.850
Plaster, gypsum, base coat, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*Ton*	15.928	14.948	14.948
Shingles, asphalt, strip, 210 lbs., f.o.b. factory, freight allowance	*Square*	4.945	5.025	5.298
Lime, hydrated, building, finishing, f.o.b. plant	*Ton*	20.194	19.972	18.057
Siding shingles, asbestos cement, f.o.b. plant, freight equalized	*Square*	10.306	10.306	9.697

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not available.

Chart 8

Indexes of Materials Output
Selected Groups of Construction Materials



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-H

Table 27.--Construction Materials: Indexes of Output

(Monthly average 1947-49 = 100)

Materials group	Monthly Indexes												
	1955												1956
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
Lumber and wood products	117.7	116.7	136.4	129.9	136.6	142.3	119.6	146.0	139.7	135.3	124.6	117.6	121.0
Millwork	131.4	131.0	155.2	140.3	128.7	135.9	108.8	141.7	143.1	134.3	128.3	103.9	107.7
Paint, varnish, and lacquer*	96.9	96.5	123.0	121.6	126.6	138.8	111.8	123.4	118.1	107.1	105.9	100.3	112.1
Portland cement	121.0	105.3	133.6	148.5	161.7	160.1	163.5	166.7	161.1	167.0	148.9	138.0	128.2
Asphalt products	71.6	79.8	125.3	125.1	121.3	146.8	107.0	146.8	126.2	122.4	110.1	71.2	68.5
Heating and plumbing equipment	115.9	114.9	141.2	129.5	130.3	143.8	116.9	180.6	183.2	164.0	139.7	107.7	126.8
Iron and steel products	104.5	104.5	130.1	133.5	136.2	154.2	127.6	144.1	149.5	145.0	134.9	132.3	136.4
Clay construction products	113.9	109.1	133.0	127.1	136.5	147.0	135.6	150.1	151.3	148.0	146.0	136.4	135.9

	Quarterly Indexes					
	1954		1955			
	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter
Gypsum products	158.9	162.2	168.9	173.7	180.3	185.4
Plumbing fixtures	101.4	123.1	133.5	141.3	130.4	142.2

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce from data reported by various Government agencies and by private firms shown in notes to the tables following. * Paint, varnish, and lacquer indexes have been revised for the period January 1953-December 1955. The monthly data shown here replace data published in previous issues of Construction Review, and are based on revised reports for the period. Revised indexes for 1953-54 are as follows:

Paint, varnish, and lacquer

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1953	102.1	99.3	116.4	115.9	118.1	116.0	108.0	102.6	110.7	110.5	97.6	99.0
1954	99.9	92.3	114.2	113.2	109.9	122.3	108.9	109.8	111.5	98.9	94.9	97.4

Chart 9.

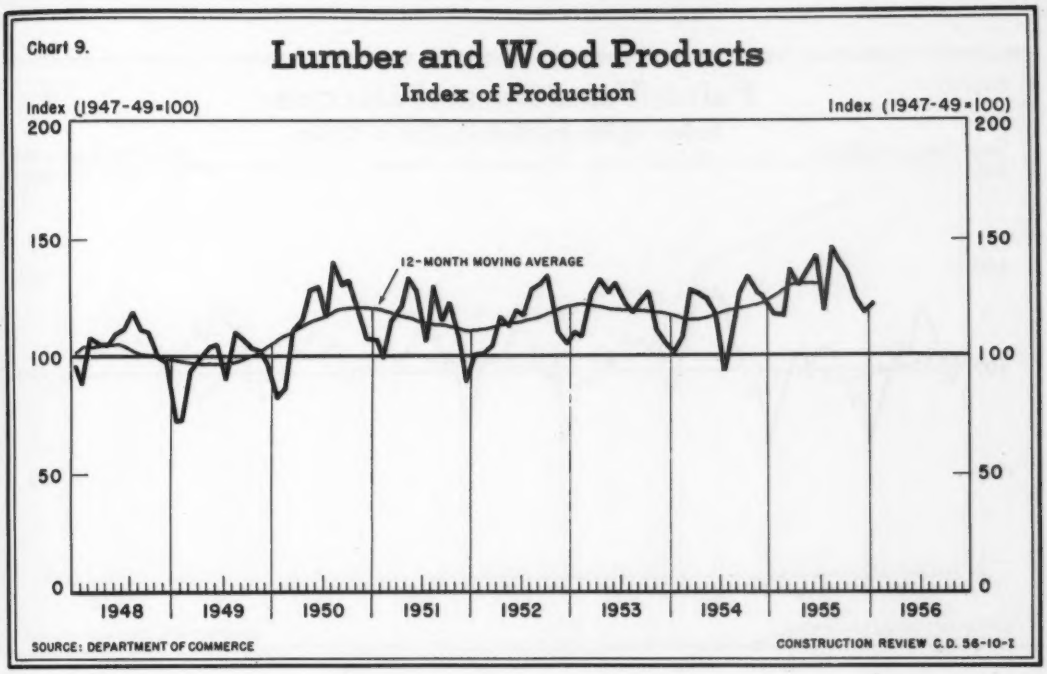


Table 28.--Lumber and Wood Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks *

Period	Softwood lumber (Million board feet)			Hardwood flooring (Thousand board feet)			Douglas fir plywood (Million square feet)	Insulating boards (Tons)	Hardboard (Tons)
	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Production		
1947-49 average	28,048	27,440	4,448	812,365	789,437	44,455	1,802	766,269	294,214
Year: 1953	31,072	30,318	5,756	1,004,558	1,010,972	73,449	3,704	950,889	423,418
1954	29,296	29,798	5,275	1,145,118	1,139,091	68,425	3,825	1,013,340	493,258
1955	31,563	31,432	5,429	1,268,104	1,258,914	70,045	4,901	1,119,213	537,125
12 months ending:									
September 1955	31,880	32,006	--	1,267,395	1,265,038	--	4,817	1,100,841	527,699
October 1955	31,893	31,918	--	1,268,552	1,264,831	--	4,852	1,105,224	531,142
November 1955	31,782	31,805	--	1,272,623	1,265,292	--	4,880	1,109,704	533,234
January 1956	31,559	31,348	--	1,271,627	1,254,986	--	4,956	1,116,384	543,215
1955: January	2,309	2,311	5,238	97,476	98,885	64,016	393	94,753	43,641
February	2,320	2,293	5,284	93,925	94,946	62,945	389	86,784	39,722
March	2,734	2,819	5,205	110,093	111,090	61,076	444	97,328	46,368
April	2,629	2,754	5,121	104,293	108,160	55,183	413	87,850	44,844
May	2,802	2,827	5,107	109,546	109,787	55,200	409	92,160	46,759
June	2,946	3,047	5,007	116,072	116,682	53,454	429	81,597	45,579
July	2,464	2,592	4,869	103,278	104,894	51,788	321	91,602	44,170
August	3,038	2,962	4,952	114,156	113,495	52,424	415	102,681	46,482
September	2,871	2,756	5,066	109,338	110,585	50,483	423	95,722	44,438
October	2,728	2,605	6,665	105,945	104,909	51,644	428	101,344	46,860
November	2,442	2,360	5,254	106,217	98,949	58,812	423	93,644	45,836
December	2,280	2,106	5,429	97,765	86,532	70,045	414	93,748	42,426
1956: January	2,305	2,227	5,495	100,999	94,957	76,187	448	91,924	49,731
	Percent change								
January 1955-56	(1)	- 4	+ 5	+ 4	- 4	+19	+14	- 3	+14
Year, 1954-55	+8	+ 5	+ 3	+11	+11	+ 2	+28	+10	+ 9

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, the Douglas Fir Plywood Association, and the Bureau of the Census. * Stocks data: As of end of period shown. [1] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

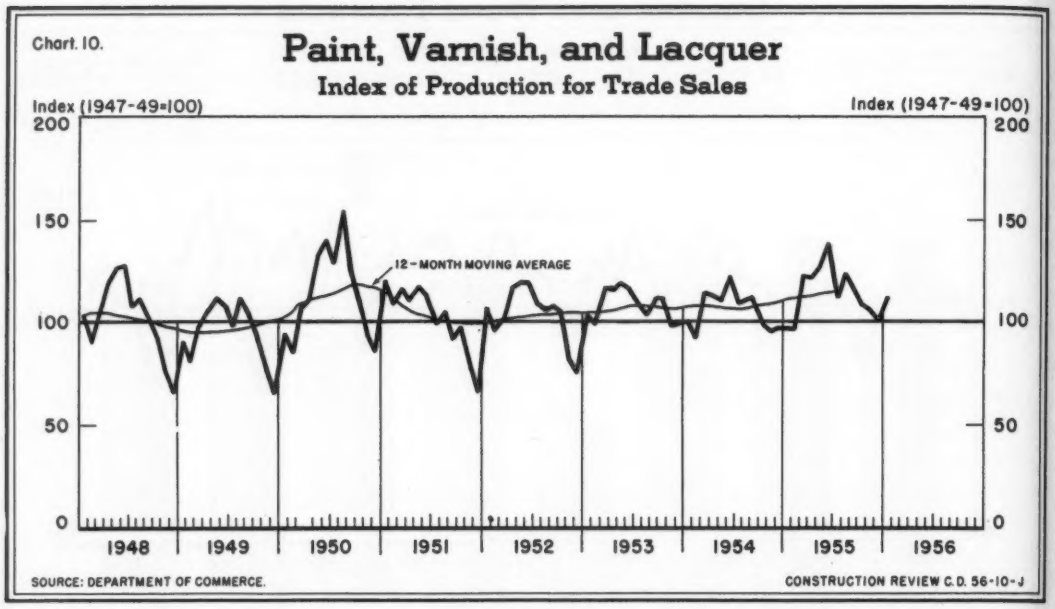


Table 29.--Millwork Products, and Paint, Varnish, and Lacquer: Production

Period	Production (*Thousands of units*)					Production for trade sales (*Thousands of gallons*)
	Douglas fir doors (panel type)	Ponderosa pine doors	Hardwood doors	Sash	Exterior frames	Paint, varnish, & lacquer
1947-49 average	5,658	3,780	3,172	11,246	4,152	266,701
Year: 1953	4,070	2,487	4,783	11,419	5,072	288,094
1954	3,522	2,285	5,940	11,054	5,791	282,979
1955	(1)	2,253	6,786	12,733	7,259	304,476
12 months ending:						
September 1955	3,661	2,334	6,991	12,996	7,257	299,593
October 1955	(1)	2,311	6,928	12,943	7,309	301,400
November 1955	(1)	2,313	6,892	12,960	7,382	303,836
January 1956	(1)	2,223	6,704	12,589	7,174	307,834
1955: January	362	196	562	1,017	527	21,546
February	355	184	565	1,061	522	21,456
March	415	236	657	1,181	653	27,344
April	301	187	646	987	591	27,025
May	254	182	554	1,050	606	28,130
June	216	182	579	1,104	720	30,844
July	184	133	490	817	537	24,845
August	229	203	613	1,163	704	27,423
September	239	202	621	1,137	713	26,255
October	(1)	206	528	1,174	681	23,797
November	(1)	193	517	1,145	591	23,529
December	(1)	149	454	897	414	22,282
1956: January	(1)	166	480	873	442	24,904
	Percent change					
January, 1955-56	--	-15	-15	-14	-16	+16
Year, 1954-55	--	- 1	+14	+15	+25	+ 8

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Fir Door Institute, the National Wood Work Manufacturers Association (whose data on ponderosa pine and hardwood doors, sash and exterior frames are only from member firms, and are not adjusted to represent full coverage), and the Bureau of the Census.

[1] Not yet available.

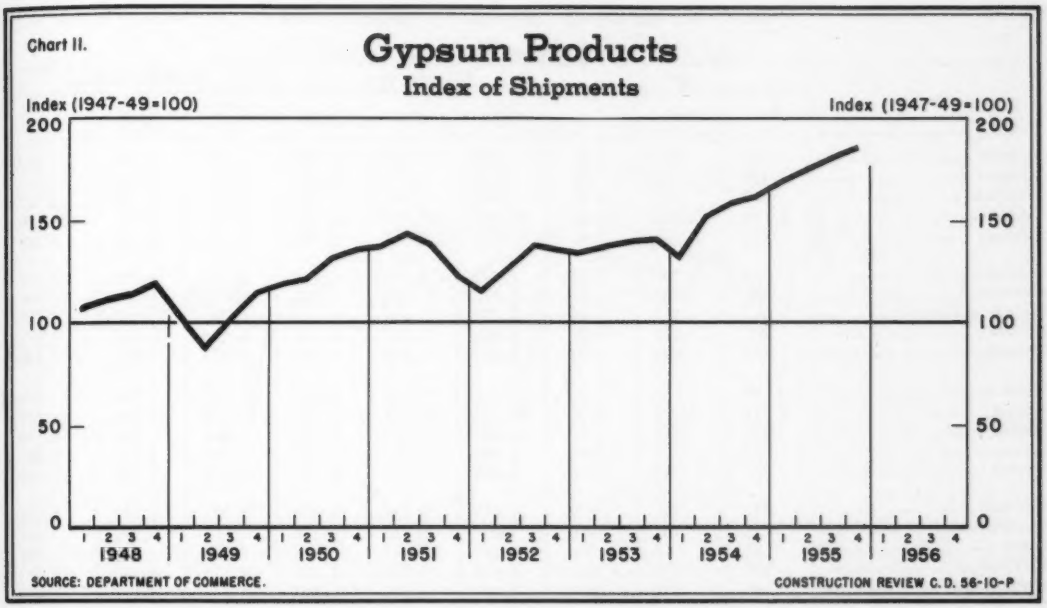


Table 30.--Portland Cement, and Asphalt and Gypsum Products: Production, Shipments, and Stocks*

Period	Production	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments (Thousands of squares)				Shipments (Million square feet)	
	(Thousands of barrels)								
	Portland cement			Asphalt prepared roofing	Asphalt siding	Asphalt insulated brick siding	Asphalt and tar saturated felts	Gypsum board[1]	Gypsum lath[1]
1947-49 average	200,607	199,306	11,922	61,252	3,365	2,811	17,087	2,478	2,075
Year: 1953	264,022	260,889	19,231	56,703	1,557	2,794	25,778	3,757	2,435
1954	271,277	274,096	16,731	58,648	1,447	2,297	28,531	4,217	2,484
1955	296,829	295,265	17,536	62,930	1,293	2,193	34,609	4,911	2,926
12 months ending:									
September 1955	292,939	293,683	--	63,948	1,296	2,179	32,444	4,757	2,820
October 1955	294,976	295,190	--	63,808	1,302	2,183	32,632		
November 1955	296,044	294,409	--	63,317	1,305	2,197	33,747		
January 1956	298,046	295,245	--	62,928	1,291	2,194	34,316		
1955: January	20,223	13,520	23,437	3,190	85	93	2,091		
February	17,611	14,031	27,087	3,264	79	108	2,711	1,181	683
March	22,340	22,941	26,516	5,533	125	161	3,758		
April	24,818	25,295	26,106	6,099	98	172	2,977		
May	27,031	29,172	23,672	5,972	91	227	2,568	1,200	724
June	26,762	31,260	18,855	6,950	109	233	3,647		
July	27,332	29,467	16,727	5,225	91	200	2,312		
August	27,861	31,883	12,731	7,183	124	253	3,238	1,232	771
September	26,958	29,867	9,779	6,242	139	255	2,496		
October	27,924	28,641	8,753	5,948	150	229	2,624		
November	24,894	21,985	11,663	4,617	128	169	3,483	1,298	748
December	23,075	17,203	17,536	2,707	74	93	2,704		
1956: January	21,440	13,500	25,456	3,188	83	94	1,798		
	Percent change								
January 1955-56	+6	(2)	+ 9	(2)	- 2	+1	-14	--	--
Year 1954-55	+9	+8	+ 5	+7	-11	-5	+21	+16	+18

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines), and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Data reported on quarterly basis. [2] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent. *Stocks data: As of end of period shown.

Table 31.--Portland Cement: Destination of Shipments, by State

(Thousands of barrels)

State	1955			Calendar year			12 months ending--		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	1952	1953	1954	Oct. 1955	Nov. 1955	Dec. 1955
Alabama	375	333	321	3,883	4,260	3,943	3,909	3,902	3,949
Arizona	197	174	180	2,119	2,433	2,215	2,351	2,351	2,337
Arkansas	160	145	123	1,940	1,762	1,894	2,673	2,583	2,519
California	2,638	2,412	1,925	25,367	27,737	28,528	31,908	31,894	31,553
Colorado	371	275	240	2,826	2,941	3,285	3,445	3,453	3,486
Connecticut	368	247	217	2,977	3,194	3,258	3,411	3,367	3,380
Delaware	106	83	68	861	902	910	1,052	1,072	1,097
District of Columbia	144	112	96	1,156	1,249	1,324	1,397	1,389	1,395
Florida	705	721	690	6,680	7,487	8,354	9,244	9,054	8,997
Georgia	492	444	430	4,161	4,644	4,441	4,975	5,075	5,198
Idaho	96	55	42	1,116	986	1,215	953	920	923
Illinois	1,521	1,224	740	13,327	13,439	14,973	14,578	14,595	14,670
Indiana	921	561	351	6,207	6,568	6,724	7,993	8,019	8,073
Iowa	705	316	132	4,890	4,941	5,863	5,995	5,899	5,883
Kansas	631	533	321	5,939	5,801	6,576	7,343	7,265	7,248
Kentucky	417	301	183	3,621	3,354	3,026	3,525	3,591	3,636
Louisiana	728	734	698	5,869	5,728	6,292	6,939	7,101	7,347
Maine	87	58	38	692	894	857	1,000	965	961
Maryland	570	397	306	4,363	4,676	4,447	4,817	4,842	4,882
Massachusetts	586	432	358	4,347	4,351	4,180	5,163	5,173	5,239
Michigan	1,479	996	639	11,255	12,716	13,076	14,220	13,967	13,991
Minnesota	633	285	191	4,748	4,968	5,500	5,873	5,816	5,838
Mississippi	171	144	141	1,705	1,696	1,732	1,977	1,948	1,972
Missouri	803	587	444	6,319	6,796	7,556	7,860	7,802	7,824
Montana	150	55	36	1,358	949	1,019	990	961	951
Nebraska	375	207	76	2,629	3,384	3,724	3,688	3,568	3,485
Nevada	61	49	52	625	618	842	757	744	737
New Hampshire	113	49	29	451	549	827	1,214	1,148	1,147
New Jersey	936	671	602	8,084	8,581	9,164	9,352	9,290	9,337
New Mexico	151	167	120	1,645	1,860	2,111	2,100	2,043	1,996
New York	2,021	1,190	993	16,905	19,134	20,290	19,730	19,452	19,399
North Carolina	383	358	289	3,896	3,715	4,009	4,277	4,347	4,414
North Dakota	155	30	12	1,062	1,148	1,161	1,163	1,154	1,150
Ohio	1,617	1,276	840	13,021	14,286	16,003	17,213	17,153	17,320
Oklahoma	411	424	364	4,677	4,158	4,364	4,704	4,740	4,785
Oregon	201	131	177	2,902	2,445	2,081	2,385	2,354	2,398
Pennsylvania	1,634	1,126	814	15,055	15,234	15,108	16,138	16,085	16,077
Rhode Island	82	54	42	1,015	857	685	837	823	822
South Carolina	231	211	183	2,961	2,217	1,993	2,312	2,380	2,461
South Dakota	173	55	29	1,113	1,246	1,116	1,251	1,218	1,221
Tennessee	533	465	391	4,702	4,856	4,683	4,867	4,961	5,088
Texas	1,821	1,649	1,665	17,249	16,158	19,081	20,624	20,715	20,781
Utah	216	133	106	1,343	1,343	1,508	1,820	1,816	1,835
Vermont	36	15	13	321	300	242	298	292	294
Virginia	495	426	303	4,652	4,701	4,474	4,662	4,743	4,801
Washington	554	255	199	4,954	5,413	5,684	6,091	5,835	5,656
West Virginia	211	157	106	1,791	1,921	2,379	2,062	2,022	2,053
Wisconsin	663	510	240	5,673	6,127	5,840	5,858	5,977	5,977
Wyoming	68	41	31	561	538	585	588	577	578

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce from data reported by Department of Interior (Bureau of Mines).

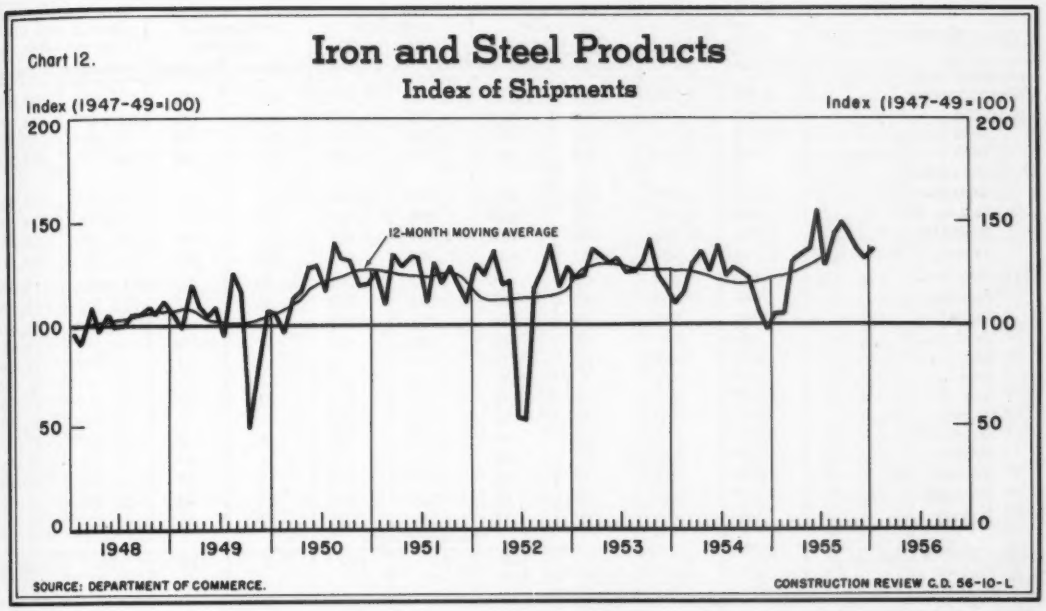


Table 32.--Iron and Steel Products: Shipments, Bookings, and Backlog

(Thousands of tons)

Period	Shipments									Shipments	Bookings	Backlog [1]
	Line pipe	Concrete reinforcing bars	Galvanized sheets	Nails	Piling	Rails	Cast-iron pipe: Pressure	Cast-iron pipe: Soil	Rigid steel conduit	Fabricated structural steel		
1947-49 average	1,975	1,523	1,669	797	309	2,167	1,075	604	226	2,248	2,105	--
Year: 1953	3,507	1,849	2,291	529	343	1,954	1,286	677	221	3,117	2,787	1,010
1954	2,595	1,751	2,363	567	388	1,196	1,376	744	227	3,136	2,510	743
1955	3,083	2,163	2,865	651	391	1,233	1,682	869	280	2,981	3,693	1,029
12 months ending:												
September 1955	2,707	1,984	2,699	647	377	1,123	1,597	868	271	2,902	3,275	--
October 1955	2,769	2,036	2,750	651	380	1,150	1,628	876	275	2,928	3,372	--
November 1955	2,897	2,092	2,809	648	383	1,175	1,659	878	276	2,957	3,522	--
January 1956	3,238	2,229	2,923	652	400	1,267	1,712	867	283	3,006	3,857	--
1955: January	119	116	211	49	21	97	101	61	19	226	241	781
February	135	128	199	51	27	103	95	67	20	213	234	802
March	254	161	239	61	29	122	130	83	23	228	285	877
April	253	184	239	62	27	118	146	76	19	242	270	881
May	265	215	236	63	40	121	169	75	21	223	303	938
June	348	209	247	74	39	127	147	84	23	282	318	991
July	296	177	205	49	32	104	129	67	35	219	369	1,009
August	315	197	242	56	32	88	156	85	21	268	312	1,060
September	295	186	269	58	33	95	165	82	25	289	339	1,049
October	265	202	260	53	41	86	161	76	26	284	309	1,068
November	260	194	256	40	34	74	149	67	24	259	345	1,088
December	278	194	262	35	36	98	134	46	24	248	368	1,029
1956: January	274	182	269	50	30	131	131	59	22	251	405	1,176
	Percent change											
January 1955-56	+130	+57	+27	+ 2	+43	+35	+30	- 5	+16	+11	+68	+51
Year, 1954-55	+19	+24	+21	+15	+ 1	+31	+22	+17	+23	- 5	+47	--

Source: Table compiled by the Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Electric Manufacturers Association, the American Institute of Steel Construction, and the Bureau of the Census. [1] Scheduled for fabrication in the next 4 months.

Table 33.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments

Period	Brick, common and face (*Million brick*)		Structural clay tile (*Thousand tons*)		Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*Thousand tons*)		Hollow facing tile (*Million brick equivalent*)		Glazed & unglazed floor & wall tile (*Thousand square feet*)	
	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments	Production	Shipments
1947-49 average	5,504	5,324	1,286	1,231	1,451	1,375	357	341	104,800	101,088
Year: 1953	5,875	5,771	990	922	1,655	1,563	456	444	137,429	134,375
1954	6,153	6,119	953	895	1,702	1,636	457	444	141,066	139,515
1955	7,148	7,010	839	834	1,926	1,880	493	482	187,991	187,828
12 months ending:										
September 1955	6,928	6,895	858	851	1,865	1,848	493	482	173,535	174,912
October 1955	7,024	6,962	849	846	1,889	1,867	494	481	178,694	179,557
November 1955	7,100	6,994	839	838	1,914	1,884	492	480	183,885	183,878
January 1956	7,244	7,031	842	824	1,949	1,900	494	487	191,545	190,542
1955: January	468	412	66	64	132	101	42	37	13,973	13,258
February	446	405	65	60	134	109	38	36	13,111	12,528
March	563	568	72	69	163	149	44	44	15,338	15,807
April	569	605	65	70	143	147	37	38	14,550	14,820
May	614	652	68	72	157	178	42	42	15,077	15,491
June	654	684	77	77	179	197	43	45	15,936	16,936
July	623	627	73	70	152	171	41	40	14,414	15,036
August	677	680	73	81	173	193	46	46	16,504	16,969
September	676	678	69	74	183	188	41	40	16,967	17,215
October	657	638	72	74	172	172	38	37	17,467	16,917
November	633	581	70	64	174	157	38	37	17,668	16,543
December	567	480	69	60	163	118	43	40	16,986	16,308
1956: January	564	433	69	54	155	121	43	42	17,527	15,972
	Percent change									
January 1955-56	+21	+5	+5	-16	+17	+20	+2	+14	+25	+20
Year, 1954-55	+16	+15	-12	-7	+15	+8	+8	+9	+35	+35

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census.

Table 34.--Clay Construction Products: Production and Shipments, by Census Region [1]

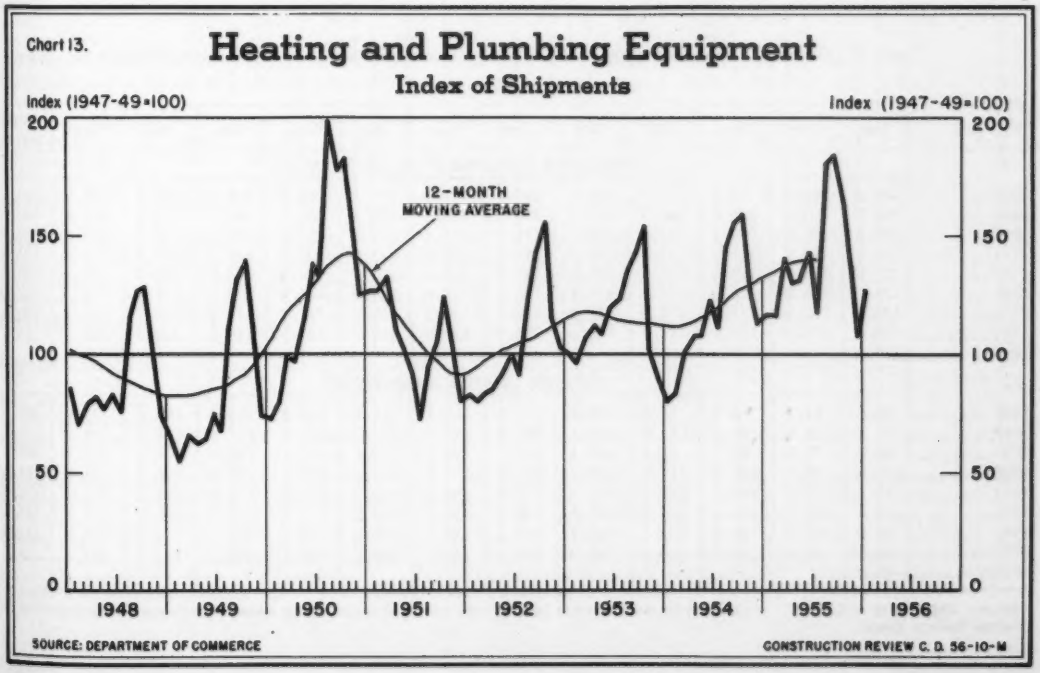
Census region	PRODUCTION				SHIPMENTS			
	January 1956		Year 1955		January 1956		Year 1955	
	Quantity	Percent change from Jan. 1955	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55	Quantity	Percent change from Jan. 1955	Quantity	Percent change, 1954-55
	Brick, common and face (*thousands*)							
U. S. TOTAL	563,909	+20	7,146,821	+16	432,748	+5	7,012,251	+15
New England	10,698	+42	128,022	+8	7,607	+14	121,052	(2)
Middle Atlantic	84,856	+19	1,115,575	+3	50,785	-14	1,134,107	+7
East North Central	122,744	+19	1,629,172	+11	103,302	+21	1,579,570	+8
West North Central	27,465	+7	381,116	+27	18,487	+1	351,173	+21
South Atlantic	137,530	+18	1,732,740	+19	108,604	+2	1,753,123	+22
East South Central	54,962	+19	668,743	+21	47,380	+13	668,005	+20
West South Central	87,850	+41	868,905	+29	55,481	-1	804,572	+20
Mountain	22,750	+39	254,380	+25	20,044	+35	236,842	+15
Pacific	15,054	-24	368,168	+23	21,058	-11	364,167	+18
	Structural clay tile (*tons*)							
U. S. TOTAL	69,419	+5	839,945	-12	54,220	-15	834,627	-7
Middle Atlantic	7,621	+28	84,170	+1	4,345	-28	85,812	+2
East North Central	6,254	-37	132,015	+1	4,972	-53	137,857	+8
West North Central	10,198	+10	110,694	-36	6,470	-7	112,247	-29
South Atlantic	4,688	-61	150,587	-15	12,311	-6	160,761	-3
East South Central	4,501	-38	64,140	-33	3,600	-52	65,501	-21
West South Central	33,266	+69	274,736	+6	20,484	+17	249,852	+1
Mountain & Pacific	2,891	+90	23,603	-29	2,038	+14	22,597	-27
	Vitrified clay sewer pipe (*tons*)							
U. S. TOTAL	155,334	+17	1,925,352	+13	120,988	+20	1,874,383	+15
Middle Atlantic	16,548	+17	212,701	+7	9,017	+13	188,740	+15
East North Central	63,003	+19	784,582	+17	45,773	+17	768,415	+18
West North Central	16,150	-5	197,993	+5	10,726	-8	196,415	+4
South Atlantic	15,425	+143	156,559	+28	14,830	+148	157,698	+31
E. & W. South Central	21,124	+18	254,870	+9	20,675	+21	251,324	+13
Mountain	4,156	-1	45,388	-1	3,203	+12	42,990	-3
Pacific	18,928	-4	273,259	+12	16,764	+6	268,802	+11

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Composition of regions, and nonfarm population distribution by region, are shown below table 2. [2] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 35.--Heating and Plumbing Equipment: Shipments and Stocks*

Period	Gas water heaters (Thousands of units)		C. I. convectors and radiators (Thousand square feet)		Warm air furnaces (Thousands of units)		Floor and wall furnaces (Thousands of units)		Residential oil burners [1] (Thousands of units)
	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments	Stocks	Shipments
1947-49 average	1,818	67	50,980	4,377	794	69	552	44	541
Year: 1953	2,274	128	31,667	4,650	997	148	552	108	541
1954	2,236	103	28,386	5,434	1,132	130	550	74	494
1955	2,598	108	28,512	4,834	1,348	191	561	70	537
12 months ending:									
September 1955	2,556	--	28,855	--	1,324	--	578	--	549
October 1955	2,577	--	28,616	--	1,336	--	574	--	542
November 1955	2,586	--	28,695	--	1,349	--	568	--	539
January 1956	2,622	--	28,855	--	1,350	--	555	--	530
1955: January	200	97	1,675	5,876	85	137	39	76	39
February	215	94	1,970	6,106	80	145	38	81	39
March	249	103	2,419	6,416	87	176	41	81	39
April	232	94	2,035	6,991	92	189	40	82	39
May	217	123	1,732	7,898	100	200	39	83	40
June	215	111	2,208	7,903	117	213	37	85	41
July	207	91	1,865	7,520	108	194	38	87	44
August	260	69	3,615	6,378	164	187	57	85	60
September	224	93	3,326	5,845	164	187	65	71	68
October	219	91	3,115	5,234	150	172	72	61	62
November	185	102	2,779	4,666	121	177	54	61	39
December	175	108	1,773	4,834	80	191	38	70	27
1956: January	224	109	2,018	4,866	87	212	33	86	32
	Percent change								
January, 1955-56	+12	+12	+20	-17	+ 2	+55	-15	+13	-18
Year, 1954-55	+16	+ 5	+ 4	+11	+19	+47	+ 1	- 5	+ 8

Source: Table compiled by Department of Commerce (BDSA) from data reported by the Bureau of the Census. [1] Sold separately.
* Stocks data: As of end of period shown.



Part VII--Employment

Table 36.--Contract Construction: Employment by Type of Contractor

Period	All contractors	Building contractors						Nonbuilding contractors		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors				All nonbuilding	Highway and street	Other nonbuilding
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
	NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES *(in thousands)*									
Year: 1948	2,169.0	1,753.0	807.0	946.0	238.2	124.9	123.2	459.8	416.0	172.1	243.8
1949	2,165.0	1,736.0	779.0	957.0	241.7	123.4	122.1	469.5	428.0	178.1	250.3
1950	2,333.0	1,885.0	844.0	1,041.0	263.1	130.8	123.4	524.0	448.0	183.0	265.2
1951	2,603.0	2,109.0	957.6	1,151.7	286.9	155.7	140.5	568.7	493.0	201.3	291.9
1952	2,634.0	2,119.0	948.3	1,170.8	287.7	156.5	155.7	570.9	514.0	209.4	305.0
1953	2,622.0	2,109.0	934.0	1,175.1	288.9	148.1	159.7	578.4	513.0	214.9	297.8
1954	2,527.0	2,021.0	848.8	1,172.7	283.4	141.4	156.5	591.5	506.0	217.4	288.2
1955	2,506.0	2,008.0	791.0	1,217.0	281.8	145.7	148.3	641.2	498.0	222.8	274.8
1955: Jan.	2,237.0	1,839.0	733.3	1,106.1	270.6	121.6	148.5	565.4	398.0	152.6	244.9
Feb.	2,169.0	1,780.0	694.6	1,085.6	264.7	121.7	144.6	554.6	389.0	147.4	241.2
Mar.	2,255.0	1,844.0	723.9	1,119.9	266.3	129.2	143.6	580.8	411.0	161.9	249.0
Apr.	2,399.0	1,935.0	759.8	1,174.8	272.5	140.2	143.8	618.3	464.0	196.4	267.3
May	2,526.0	2,013.0	789.9	1,222.8	279.3	147.8	145.6	650.1	513.0	234.7	278.6
June	2,615.0	2,067.0	819.7	1,247.2	284.0	153.5	148.5	661.2	548.0	262.3	286.1
July	2,701.0	2,134.0	855.5	1,278.8	289.9	161.5	150.1	677.3	567.0	272.3	295.1
Aug.	2,746.0	2,170.0	868.2	1,301.6	297.3	164.1	150.4	689.8	576.0	277.9	298.2
Sept.	2,748.0	2,164.0	851.4	1,312.3	300.0	161.1	152.3	698.9	584.0	279.5	304.0
Oct.	2,685.0	2,120.0	829.2	1,291.0	295.3	157.3	152.9	685.5	565.0	266.2	298.8
Nov.	2,580.0	2,063.0	808.4	1,254.1	285.2	151.8	151.4	665.7	517.0	235.7	280.8
Dec.	2,422.0	1,978.0	766.6	1,211.2	275.7	138.6	148.8	648.1	444.0	187.3	257.0
1956: Jan.	2,258.0	1,864.0	712.8	1,150.8	266.2	123.3	145.8	615.5	394.0	156.2	237.5
	Percent change										
Dec. 1955-Jan. 1956	-6.8	-5.8	-7.0	-5.0	-3.4	-11.0	-2.0	-5.0	-11.3	-16.6	-7.6
Jan., 1955-56	+.9	+1.4	-2.8	+4.0	-1.6	+1.4	-1.8	+8.9	-1.0	+2.4	-3.0

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 37.--Contract Construction: Indexes of Employment (Seasonally Adjusted), and Indexes of Weekly Man-Hours

(1947-49 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual average
	INDEXES OF EMPLOYMENT *(seasonally adjusted)*[1]												
1948	100.8	95.8	98.2	100.1	101.6	103.9	104.6	105.2	105.6	106.0	106.9	107.0	103.1
1949	105.7	103.2	102.0	101.2	101.0	101.3	102.6	103.5	104.5	104.2	104.1	101.8	102.9
1950	100.8	99.9	100.1	103.3	106.3	111.1	114.4	116.5	117.6	119.0	119.7	117.5	110.9
1951	120.1	119.9	122.2	123.3	123.4	124.3	125.2	125.6	125.1	126.2	123.9	124.6	123.8
1952	123.6	124.8	123.1	123.0	123.5	125.8	126.4	127.1	127.5	125.9	126.0	125.2	125.2
1953	125.7	126.8	124.9	124.1	124.1	123.4	124.0	123.3	124.3	125.1	124.6	124.8	124.6
1954	120.3	122.7	122.4	121.5	121.4	120.1	120.3	119.2	118.3	117.9	119.2	118.3	120.0
1955	118.1	116.4	118.0	118.9	120.6	119.4	121.0	119.7	120.5	119.3	118.4	118.1	119.0
1956	119.2												
	INDEXES OF WEEKLY MAN-HOURS												
1948	89.6	81.3	86.7	95.0	102.2	111.9	115.1	117.3	116.2	113.3	106.6	105.4	103.4
1949	94.2	88.9	89.2	95.0	103.1	106.8	110.5	114.2	111.5	111.4	104.4	94.9	102.0
1950	84.6	79.5	83.7	95.8	106.1	116.7	122.1	129.5	126.1	128.9	123.9	112.7	109.1
1951	106.4	99.3	105.4	116.9	126.4	131.8	137.7	141.1	138.5	139.8	124.2	121.6	124.1
1952	111.1	112.3	108.3	117.5	125.4	136.8	138.9	143.2	144.0	139.9	128.2	123.9	127.5
1953	109.1	108.7	109.1	115.8	122.6	130.4	132.0	137.2	131.7	136.7	126.7	117.2	123.1
1954	95.5	102.8	106.4	112.1	118.2	124.6	127.5	129.8	123.8	123.5	118.2	108.9	115.9
1955	96.0	92.4	100.6	106.1	117.2	122.3	128.7	129.3	132.3	125.1	113.4	109.4	114.3
1956	98.8												

Source: Department of Labor. Federal Reserve Board.

[1] Indexes for months before January 1953 are based on seasonally adjusted employment data derived by the

Table 38.--Contract Construction: Employment, by State

State	Number of employees (in thousands)											Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955							1956	1953	1954	1955	
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	
Alabama	34.7	35.4	35.4	34.4	34.4	33.9	33.2	32.0	29.9	27.7	29.9	+ 7
Arizona	19.0	19.1	17.9	19.8	20.3	19.9	19.1	18.8	17.6	17.8	17.9	+ 5
Arkansas	16.2	17.0	17.3	16.7	16.5	16.1	15.3	14.5	19.5	13.3	13.5	+ 7
California	277.7	283.0	291.4	290.2	281.8	267.5	257.7	(1)	241.4	229.0	243.9	--
Colorado	32.1	30.8	30.4	30.4	29.7	28.8	28.0	27.1	26.3	21.8	25.1	+ 8
Connecticut [2]	47.7	49.0	48.9	49.5	49.2	47.5	46.6	41.7	35.4	36.3	37.9	+10
Delaware [1]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
District of Columbia	18.2	18.0	18.7	19.2	18.9	19.1	18.7	17.7	18.0	15.2	15.5	+14
Florida	90.8	94.2	97.2	94.8	93.1	93.4	92.1	88.3	79.7	84.9	87.6	+ 1
Georgia	53.7	53.8	54.7	52.5	52.0	51.1	49.5	49.2	44.1	45.4	46.2	+ 6
Idaho	10.0	10.1	10.5	10.1	9.0	8.6	7.9	7.2	6.5	5.4	5.6	+29
Illinois [3]	180.3	183.7	185.4	183.0	182.3	177.0	167.4	161.5	144.5	136.5	145.5	+11
Indiana	70.3	74.2	77.0	77.0	76.6	72.1	64.8	61.8	55.4	50.3	53.9	+15
Iowa	36.5	36.9	36.6	36.2	33.9	31.9	27.0	25.9	24.4	24.1	25.2	+ 3
Kansas	38.2	40.0	41.4	39.9	39.6	38.5	34.0	32.5	30.2	28.8	29.2	+11
Kentucky [1]	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Louisiana [3]	50.1	51.7	53.9	55.0	55.6	55.5	56.1	55.9	53.5	48.8	42.7	+31
Maine [3]	15.5	16.0	15.5	14.8	14.7	13.2	10.8	9.6	8.8	11.3	10.9	-12
Maryland [3]	67.4	69.4	69.2	69.8	71.1	70.5	67.7	64.0	52.0	49.7	54.3	+18
Massachusetts	83.6	86.7	87.1	91.4	89.0	88.5	80.4	71.6	60.1	61.1	66.5	+ 8
Michigan	108.1	106.7	112.4	116.3	115.0	110.8	102.8	96.5	91.8	99.6	101.6	- 5
Minnesota	65.3	67.9	71.6	70.7	69.1	61.0	51.8	47.2	36.7	36.3	45.2	+ 4
Mississippi	18.0	18.0	18.4	18.2	17.8	17.6	16.9	14.9	16.9	14.5	14.3	+ 4
Missouri	80.2	85.9	84.8	81.9	78.6	75.3	68.9	63.9	52.3	55.9	62.3	+ 3
Montana	10.7	11.7	12.4	12.5	11.3	10.0	8.4	7.5	6.8	6.7	6.6	+14
Nebraska	26.0	28.1	28.5	28.5	27.5	26.4	21.8	21.2	13.7	16.1	16.9	+25
Nevada	9.7	10.4	10.6	10.3	9.6	9.1	8.4	7.6	7.0	7.2	7.9	- 4
New Hampshire	10.4	10.7	10.4	10.1	10.1	9.9	8.7	7.8	5.6	6.2	8.3	- 6
New Jersey	101.4	105.1	106.7	107.7	110.1	107.2	100.7	90.2	84.8	84.6	83.6	+ 8
New Mexico	16.1	16.0	16.0	15.8	15.0	15.0	14.3	13.5	12.2	12.3	13.0	+ 4
New York	240.0	248.0	249.9	252.7	250.6	246.0	232.4	(1)	190.0	194.4	202.9	--
North Carolina	54.4	53.8	53.4	52.9	51.9	51.5	49.2	47.3	50.4	45.0	46.6	+ 2
North Dakota	10.2	10.7	11.1	10.7	9.5	8.1	5.9	5.1	4.5	6.2	5.1	0
Ohio	154.3	163.5	167.8	105.3	163.9	156.9	145.2	(1)	121.2	135.9	130.0	--
Oklahoma	33.6	34.8	34.3	33.5	31.7	30.5	29.7	29.1	33.8	27.3	27.9	+ 4
Oregon	23.8	27.5	29.8	28.8	27.2	23.1	21.8	19.7	20.2	18.1	18.5	+ 6
Pennsylvania	196.5	203.4	202.3	209.2	204.5	194.6	177.6	156.8	158.3	144.3	156.1	(4)
Rhode Island [3]	17.5	17.9	18.3	19.0	17.7	17.0	16.2	14.3	14.1	12.5	15.0	- 5
South Carolina	32.1	32.2	32.2	30.9	29.2	29.0	27.3	26.1	54.8	39.9	26.7	- 2
South Dakota	10.2	10.3	9.9	9.1	9.2	7.4	5.8	4.9	5.7	6.9	6.4	-23
Tennessee	55.4	55.4	55.2	54.6	53.7	51.8	48.5	(1)	46.5	46.8	52.4	--
Texas [3]	167.2	168.5	168.7	162.1	158.9	155.9	155.1	153.7	168.8	139.1	144.0	+ 7
Utah	16.7	17.2	17.0	17.0	16.2	16.2	15.9	14.0	9.3	8.1	9.7	+44
Vermont [3]	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.1	5.0	4.6	3.2	2.9	3.5	3.1	+ 3
Virginia	64.5	65.6	66.0	65.6	65.6	64.5	61.7	60.2	55.6	49.8	54.3	+11
Washington	51.0	52.7	53.4	52.3	49.2	44.2	42.6	39.3	37.1	36.4	40.9	- 4
West Virginia	19.5	21.2	23.6	22.8	21.9	21.0	20.3	(1)	18.5	17.2	14.3	--
Wisconsin	60.4	63.5	65.7	66.4	65.8	62.2	57.8	(1)	46.4	43.5	48.1	--
Wyoming	6.5	7.2	7.3	7.3	6.9	5.7	4.9	4.1	5.1	4.1	4.3	- 5

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Not available. [2] Includes a small number of employees in mining. [3] Revised series, not strictly comparable with previously published data. [4] Change of less than one-half of 1 percent.

Table 39.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas

Area	Number of employees *(in thousands)*											Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955							1956	1953	1954	1955	
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, N.Y.	6.8	6.6	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.3	(1)	5.9	6.0	5.5	--
Albuquerque, N. Mex.	6.0	6.3	6.1	6.2	5.8	6.0	5.6	5.1	4.5	3.9	4.5	+13
Atlanta, Ga.	19.6	19.7	20.7	20.3	20.4	20.3	19.3	19.2	12.9	14.7	16.5	+11
Baltimore, Md.[2]	42.6	43.3	44.2	45.2	46.2	45.8	44.9	42.5	31.7	34.3	34.5	+23
Baton Rouge, La.	5.8	5.7	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.4	5.6	5.8	(1)	5.1	5.5	+ 5
Binghamton, N.Y.	3.2	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.0	2.9	2.3	(1)	2.2	2.1	2.6	--
Birmingham, Ala.	11.6	12.1	12.1	11.9	11.8	11.5	11.1	10.5	9.7	9.1	9.0	+17
Boise, Idaho	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.3	1.2	+17
Boston, Mass.	47.6	51.2	50.9	53.5	51.5	50.4	46.8	42.1	35.8	35.5	36.4	+16
Bridgeport, Conn.[3]	5.8	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.7	5.5	4.9	4.7	4.3	4.9	0
Buffalo, N.Y.	18.5	19.8	19.4	20.3	19.2	18.9	17.2	(1)	17.1	16.1	15.1	--
Casper, Wyo.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.0	.9	.7	.7	1.2	.8	.9	-22
Charleston, S.C.	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.8	3.0	3.1	2.9	2.6	3.7	4.0	2.6	0
Charleston, W. Va.	4.4	4.5	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.3	3.9	(1)	4.7	4.5	3.5	--
Charlotte, N. C.	5.6	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.0	4.9	4.8	5.9	6.2	5.1	- 6
Chattanooga, Tenn.	5.0	5.1	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.1	3.9	3.6	5.1	3.5	4.9	-27
Chicago, Ill.[2]	121.7	124.4	126.2	125.8	125.2	122.6	117.1	114.0	96.1	93.7	100.8	+13
Denver, Colo.	20.4	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.3	18.7	18.1	17.7	16.7	14.2	16.5	+ 7
Des Moines, Iowa	6.6	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.5	5.0	3.7	4.1	4.4	+14
Detroit, Mich.	63.1	61.0	65.8	68.9	58.0	67.3	63.0	60.1	53.5	60.0	61.7	- 3
Duluth, Minn.	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.2	+14
Evansville, Ind.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.2	(1)	2.4	2.9	3.0	--
Fargo, N. D.	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.7	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.4	+14
Fort Wayne, Ind.	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.8	(1)	3.3	2.9	2.9	--
Great Falls, Mont.	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.1	0
Harrisburg, Pa.	8.4	8.4	7.9	8.2	8.0	8.2	7.4	6.5	5.9	5.0	6.4	+ 2
Hartford, Conn.[3]	9.5	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.2	8.4	8.2	7.9	8.4	0
Indianapolis, Ind.	10.3	10.4	11.1	11.2	11.0	10.5	9.9	(1)	10.7	8.1	8.2	--
Jackson, Miss.	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.2	4.9	4.7	4.6	3.8	(1)	11.2	4.0	- 5
Jacksonville, Fla.	8.5	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.3	9.2	9.7	- 8
Kansas City, Mo.	19.4	19.1	18.9	19.1	18.9	18.3	16.4	(1)	21.1	20.0	18.6	--
Knoxville, Tenn.	10.7	9.2	9.1	8.1	7.2	6.7	6.2	5.8	8.3	12.5	14.8	-61
Lewiston, Maine[2]	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.1	.8	1.0	1.0	+10
Little Rock-N. Little Rock, Ark.	5.9	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.4	6.1	5.5	5.6	4.2	4.0	5.0	+12
Los Angeles, Calif.	128.6	130.4	133.4	133.4	124.6	115.3	112.4	(1)	111.0	113.7	116.8	--
Louisville, Ky.	14.2	15.0	16.2	15.2	14.6	13.7	(1)	29.3	27.5	27.2	25.5	+15
Manchester, N. H.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.2	1.4	1.8	0
Memphis, Tenn.	12.0	12.0	12.5	12.8	12.7	12.4	12.1	11.5	9.9	8.7	9.3	+24
Miami, Fla.	24.2	25.0	26.0	26.6	26.3	25.9	24.2	22.3	18.9	20.4	24.7	-10
Milwaukee, Wis.	21.8	22.8	23.7	24.0	23.8	23.0	22.3	(1)	(1)	16.7	18.3	--
Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	37.9	38.9	40.4	40.6	38.9	33.9	30.4	28.3	22.4	25.4	25.2	+12
Mobile, Ala.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.5	5.2	4.1	4.3	+ 5
Nashville, Tenn.	7.6	7.8	8.1	8.1	8.0	7.6	7.2	7.1	9.3	6.4	6.0	+18
Nassau-Suffolk Counties, N. Y.	30.2	30.1	30.2	30.0	28.6	27.1	26.4	(1)	23.2	23.5	25.1	--
Newark-Jersey City, N. J.	33.2	33.7	33.4	33.6	35.1	34.5	33.2	29.3	27.5	27.2	25.5	+15
New Bedford, Mass.	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.3	0
New Britain, Conn.[3]	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.1	+ 9
New Haven, Conn.[3]	6.3	6.5	6.7	6.5	6.4	6.2	5.8	5.6	5.2	4.9	5.4	+ 4
New Orleans, La.	20.8	21.0	21.0	21.0	20.6	20.8	20.7	(1)	19.9	20.8	19.9	--
New York City, N. Y.	109.4	110.7	111.5	114.0	111.2	110.5	111.7	(1)	91.0	94.6	95.2	--
Norfolk-Portsmouth, Va.	12.0	12.2	12.5	12.4	12.2	11.9	11.1	10.8	9.8	10.4	11.0	- 2
Oklahoma City, Okla.	11.3	11.2	11.2	10.7	10.4	10.2	9.8	9.7	9.1	7.8	8.6	+13
Omaha, Nebr.	6.8	7.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.9	7.1	7.0	5.9	8.2	6.2	+13
Paterson, N. J.	21.6	22.8	23.4	23.4	23.0	22.6	20.8	18.7	(1)	17.8	19.7	- 5
Perth Amboy, N. J.*	6.6	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.1	6.9	7.1	6.2	(1)	(1)	5.2	+19
Phoenix, Ariz.	10.0	10.2	9.2	10.4	10.9	10.6	10.5	10.1	8.9	8.9	9.9	+ 2
Pittsburgh, Pa.	43.8	45.6	45.9	48.1	47.1	45.2	41.7	38.8	32.2	30.6	35.1	+11
Portland, Maine[2]	3.9	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.3	2.8	2.4	2.6	3.1	-10
Portland, Oreg.	12.9	15.3	16.0	15.9	15.2	13.4	13.9	(1)	10.9	10.5	11.2	--
Providence, R. I.	15.5	15.7	16.2	16.8	15.7	15.1	14.4	12.7	12.5	11.1	13.3	- 5
Racine, Wis.	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.2	1.9	(1)	(1)	1.5	1.7	--
Reno, Nev.	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.2	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.7	+12
Richmond, Va.	10.1	10.4	10.5	10.5	10.7	10.4	10.1	9.8	9.9	9.2	9.0	+ 9

See footnotes at end of table.

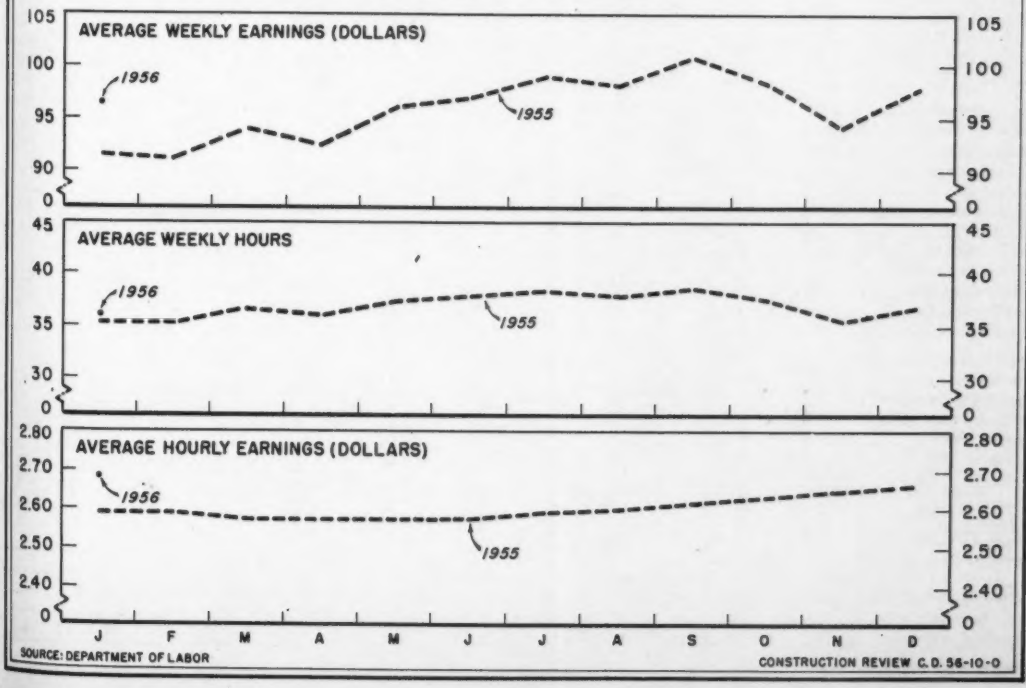
Table 39.--Contract Construction: Employment in Selected Areas--Continued

Area	Number of employees (*in thousands*)											Percent change, Jan. 1955-56
	1955							1956	1953	1954	1955	
	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	Jan.	
Rochester, N. Y.	8.2	10.7	10.9	10.5	10.2	9.8	9.0	(1)	7.1	7.5	8.2	--
St. Louis, Mo.	37.5	38.6	39.5	39.1	38.1	36.3	33.8	32.1	(1)	34.4	36.0	-11
Salt Lake City, Utah	9.9	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.5	8.9	8.6	8.3	5.7	5.2	6.3	+32
San Diego, Calif.	12.3	13.3	13.1	12.9	12.6	12.3	12.2	(1)	16.0	11.6	12.2	--
San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.	61.2	63.1	64.6	64.4	65.1	63.7	60.1	(1)	53.5	51.3	54.9	--
San Jose, Calif.	10.4	10.3	10.9	11.0	10.7	10.5	9.7	(1)	7.7	7.4	8.8	--
Savannah, Ga.	3.8	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.5	2.4	4.3	3.6	3.0	-20
Seattle, Wash.	15.5	15.7	15.9	15.9	15.5	14.3	13.5	12.6	10.7	10.2	11.9	+ 6
Spokane, Wash.	5.1	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.2	4.3	3.5	2.9	3.3	2.9	3.2	- 9
Springfield-Holyoke, Mass.	5.4	5.9	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	5.7	5.0	3.9	3.8	4.5	+11
Stamford, Conn.[3]	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.5	2.8	2.8	3.6	- 3
Syracuse, N. Y.	7.7	6.9	7.2	7.3	6.7	6.9	6.3	(1)	5.6	5.6	5.0	--
Tacoma, Wash.	4.3	4.6	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.1	3.8	3.3	3.1	+32
Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	13.0	13.3	13.4	13.3	13.5	13.6	13.9	14.1	12.3	13.1	12.9	+ 9
Topeka, Kans.	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.8	4.0	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.6	2.0	2.5	+20
Tucson, Ariz.	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.6	5.1	3.7	3.7	+24
Tulsa, Okla.	9.0	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.3	8.1	8.2	7.8	7.5	6.8	7.8	0
Utica-Rome, N. Y.	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.1	(1)	2.3	2.3	1.8	--
Washington, D. C.	44.8	45.2	46.4	47.3	47.3	47.3	45.7	42.5	34.7	31.8	37.3	+14
Waterbury, Conn.[3]	2.1	2.2	2.3	3.0	2.4	2.3	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.6	1.9	0
Westchester Co., N. Y.	16.5	16.9	16.4	16.5	16.9	16.8	15.3	(1)	(1)	11.8	13.6	--
Wheeling-Steubenville, W. Va.	4.3	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.1	3.4	3.0	3.3	+24
Wichita, Kans.	8.4	8.6	8.7	8.6	8.2	7.9	7.0	6.6	5.4	5.5	7.0	- 6
Worcester, Mass.	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.2	3.8	3.2	3.2	2.8	0

Source: Department of Labor. *Shown for the first time in this issue. This table is expanded to include additional areas as data become available. [1] Not available. [2] Revised series; not strictly comparable with previously published data. [3] Includes a small number of employees in mining.

Chart 14.

Hours and Earnings of Workers
In Contract Construction



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

CONSTRUCTION REVIEW C.D. 56-10-0

Table 40.--Contract Construction: Hours and Gross Earnings of Construction Workers

Period	All construction	Building construction							Nonbuilding construction		
		All building contractors	General contractors	Special trades contractors					All nonbuilding	Highway and street	Other nonbuilding
				All special trades	Plumbing and heating	Painting and decorating	Electrical work	Other trades			
	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Year: 1953	$91.61	$91.76	$87.75	$94.79	$98.30	$87.10	$111.61	$91.04	$90.27	$85.28	$93.85
1954	93.98	94.12	89.41	98.01	102.71	90.39	112.71	93.19	92.86	86.88	97.36
1955	95.94	96.39	90.22	100.46	106.68	94.38	116.52	96.21	94.87	91.05	98.11
1955: January	91.69	93.02	88.55	96.10	105.64	86.72	113.00	88.78	85.01	76.70	90.16
February	91.43	91.96	85.59	95.55	103.40	90.05	111.25	89.24	88.31	78.79	94.11
March	94.06	94.42	89.14	97.92	103.40	92.38	113.10	93.37	91.48	83.21	97.22
April	92.52	93.10	87.40	97.10	103.22	90.25	112.81	92.92	89.39	81.92	95.37
May	96.12	96.52	90.27	100.74	105.26	94.87	114.17	97.55	94.07	90.03	97.86
June	96.89	96.89	90.14	101.65	105.64	95.39	115.35	98.36	96.41	93.93	98.55
July	98.94	98.95	92.00	103.60	108.39	97.02	118.31	100.64	99.36	97.22	101.18
August	98.02	97.99	92.23	102.03	107.34	96.72	118.60	97.73	99.01	96.75	101.15
September	100.87	100.61	93.61	104.90	109.80	99.25	120.90	101.28	102.29	102.13	102.75
October	98.36	98.01	91.55	102.48	108.96	97.30	121.30	97.54	99.36	96.90	101.40
November	94.08	94.04	88.24	98.28	105.28	91.58	117.43	92.89	92.64	89.21	95.76
December	97.62	98.55	92.11	102.65	109.42	96.26	122.00	97.23	95.20	87.47	101.12
1956: January	96.48	97.27	90.91	101.39	110.01	95.20	120.26	94.80	93.17	84.97	98.43
	AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS										
Year: 1953	37.7	37.0	37.5	36.6	38.1	34.7	39.3	35.7	40.3	41.2	39.6
1954	37.0	36.2	36.2	36.3	37.9	34.5	38.6	35.3	40.2	40.6	39.9
1955	36.9	36.1	35.8	36.4	38.1	34.7	39.1	35.5	40.2	41.2	39.4
1955: January	35.4	35.1	35.0	35.2	38.0	32.6	38.7	33.5	36.8	36.7	36.8
February	35.3	34.7	34.1	35.0	37.6	33.6	38.1	33.3	37.9	37.7	38.1
March	36.6	35.9	35.8	36.0	37.6	34.6	38.6	35.1	39.6	40.2	39.2
April	36.0	35.4	35.1	35.7	37.4	33.8	38.5	34.8	38.2	38.1	38.3
May	37.4	36.7	36.4	36.9	38.0	35.4	38.7	36.4	40.2	41.3	39.3
June	37.7	36.7	36.2	37.1	38.0	35.2	39.1	36.7	41.2	42.5	39.9
July	38.2	37.2	36.8	37.4	38.3	35.8	39.7	37.0	42.1	43.4	40.8
August	37.7	36.7	36.6	36.7	38.2	35.3	39.8	35.8	41.6	43.0	40.3
September	38.5	37.4	37.0	37.6	38.8	35.7	39.9	37.1	42.8	44.6	41.1
October	37.4	36.3	35.9	36.6	38.5	35.0	39.9	35.6	41.4	42.5	40.4
November	35.5	34.7	34.2	35.1	37.2	33.3	38.5	33.9	38.6	39.3	38.0
December	36.7	36.1	35.7	36.4	38.8	34.5	40.0	35.1	39.5	39.4	39.5
1956: January	36.0	35.5	35.1	35.7	38.6	34.0	39.3	34.1	38.5	38.8	38.3
	AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS										
Year: 1953	$2.43	$2.48	$2.34	$2.59	$2.58	$2.51	$2.84	$2.55	$2.24	$2.07	$2.37
1954	2.54	2.60	2.47	2.70	2.71	2.62	2.92	2.64	2.31	2.14	2.44
1955	2.60	2.67	2.52	2.76	2.80	2.72	2.98	2.71	2.36	2.21	2.49
1955: January	2.59	2.65	2.53	2.73	2.78	2.66	2.92	2.65	2.31	2.09	2.45
February	2.59	2.65	2.51	2.73	2.75	2.68	2.92	2.68	2.33	2.09	2.47
March	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.75	2.67	2.93	2.66	2.31	2.07	2.48
April	2.57	2.63	2.49	2.72	2.76	2.67	2.93	2.67	2.34	2.15	2.49
May	2.57	2.63	2.48	2.73	2.77	2.68	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.18	2.49
June	2.57	2.64	2.49	2.74	2.78	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.34	2.21	2.47
July	2.59	2.66	2.50	2.77	2.83	2.71	2.98	2.72	2.36	2.24	2.48
August	2.60	2.67	2.52	2.78	2.81	2.74	2.98	2.73	2.38	2.25	2.51
September	2.62	2.69	2.53	2.79	2.83	2.78	3.03	2.73	2.39	2.29	2.50
October	2.63	2.70	2.55	2.80	2.83	2.78	3.04	2.74	2.40	2.28	2.51
November	2.65	2.71	2.58	2.80	2.83	2.75	3.05	2.74	2.40	2.27	2.52
December	2.66	2.73	2.58	2.82	2.82	2.79	3.05	2.77	2.41	2.22	2.54
1956: January	2.68	2.74	2.59	2.84	2.85	2.80	3.06	2.78	2.42	2.19	2.57
Avg. wkly. earnings	+5.2	+4.6	+2.7	+5.5	+4.1	+9.8	+6.4	+6.8	+9.6	+10.8	+9.2
Avg. wkly. hours	+1.7	+1.1	+ .3	+1.4	+1.6	+4.3	+1.6	+1.8	+4.6	+ 5.7	+4.1
Avg. hrly. earnings	+3.5	+3.4	+2.4	+4.0	+2.5	+5.3	+4.8	+4.9	+4.8	+4.8	+4.9

Source: Department of Labor.

Table 41.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade

State and territory	Number of registered apprentices employed at end of 4th quarter[1]		
	1953	1954	1955[2]
Total	**84,954**	**83,771**	**100,899**
Alabama	1,427	1,163	1,226
Alaska	160	196	274
Arizona	846	1,086	1,167
Arkansas	445	341	482
California	10,664	10,351	14,227
Colorado	862	838	1,345
Connecticut	1,916	1,964	2,332
Delaware	133	146	218
District of Columbia	1,007	892	1,269
Florida	2,430	2,383	2,765
Georgia	2,434	1,714	2,032
Hawaii	349	297	272
Idaho	293	237	287
Illinois	5,868	6,886	7,963
Indiana	1,351	1,431	1,693
Iowa	858	913	961
Kansas	427	561	781
Kentucky	1,300	1,086	1,286
Louisiana	1,594	1,529	1,564
Maine	166	186	294
Maryland	1,315	1,195	1,400
Massachusetts	2,035	2,093	2,425
Michigan	3,140	3,588	4,551
Minnesota	2,368	2,432	2,847
Mississippi	441	318	384
Missouri	1,906	1,969	2,791
Montana	418	505	540
Nebraska	485	463	671
Nevada	205	289	365
New Hampshire	87	94	132
New Jersey	1,971	1,930	2,142
New Mexico	459	427	561
New York	9,225	8,176	(3)
North Carolina	1,633	1,472	1,820
North Dakota	49	70	130
Ohio	6,026	6,387	7,529
Oklahoma	717	535	909
Oregon	823	865	1,124
Pennsylvania	3,172	3,492	3,826
Rhode Island	411	441	501
South Carolina	944	764	754
South Dakota	93	124	216
Tennessee	2,198	1,816	1,947
Texas	3,874	3,685	4,969
Utah	570	513	719
Vermont	95	92	110
Virginia	1,290	1,237	1,307
Washington	1,718	1,859	2,293
West Virginia	441	409	487
Wisconsin	2,062	2,089	2,598
Wyoming	253	242	237

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 41.--Registered Apprentices in the Building Trades, by State and Territory, and Trade--Continued

State and territory	Number of registered apprentices employed at end of 4th quarter, selected trades											
	1954						1955[2]					
	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paperhanger	Plumber and pipefitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades[4]	Carpenter	Electrician	Painter and paperhanger	Plumber and pipefitter	Sheet metal worker	Trowel trades[4]
Total	22,568	16,136	3,932	20,062	9,664	11,001	26,248	17,022	4,610	21,637	10,757	12,679
Alabama	412	196	72	231	143	109	331	203	79	197	146	109
Alaska	93	33	7	55	8	0	132	35	15	49	9	2
Arizona	434	280	90	142	85	55	452	200	75	150	98	94
Arkansas	105	62	39	91	20	24	96	45	36	94	45	33
California	3,994	1,289	780	2,302	1,367	619	5,475	1,437	1,105	2,544	1,616	961
Colorado	197	104	31	195	206	105	325	157	48	299	235	157
Connecticut	622	217	156	487	233	249	617	274	161	521	259	216
Delaware	35	23	20	36	16	16	45	35	21	56	26	26
Dist. of Col.	129	215	43	244	82	179	172	184	51	322	78	254
Florida	617	876	47	382	231	230	696	864	37	424	280	254
Georgia	338	628	50	372	179	147	357	641	37	364	202	176
Hawaii	85	86	7	70	40	9	75	77	2	57	50	5
Idaho	65	64	13	47	38	10	92	65	23	45	22	25
Illinois	1,485	1,375	346	1,682	552	1,446	1,485	1,409	389	1,886	633	1,710
Indiana	222	299	63	252	230	365	372	266	89	306	246	360
Iowa	281	128	55	220	125	104	308	96	40	214	134	100
Kansas	173	88	24	111	67	98	233	77	59	142	81	138
Kentucky	258	268	29	315	119	97	237	387	46	381	114	100
Louisiana	390	391	55	353	120	220	383	372	55	305	118	195
Maine	19	77	1	67	13	9	25	85	1	88	59	14
Maryland	214	325	39	288	80	249	263	303	51	338	97	300
Massachusetts	393	443	53	686	257	261	485	458	70	717	245	264
Michigan	896	619	167	718	575	613	1,199	660	173	819	628	674
Minnesota	524	518	155	604	365	266	647	530	162	598	365	311
Mississippi	74	102	0	91	22	29	95	85	0	97	35	37
Missouri	630	256	150	378	298	257	825	320	194	472	395	409
Montana	212	82	41	96	55	19	221	93	33	95	60	24
Nebraska	142	84	17	96	65	59	190	103	18	82	125	106
Nevada	84	120	10	40	35	0	131	106	14	40	70	0
New Hampshire	33	3	0	58	0	0	41	3	0	70	0	5
New Jersey	632	196	23	475	253	351	535	277	27	563	227	378
New Mexico	123	178	31	54	27	14	128	195	17	66	32	22
New York	2,063	1,334	178	1,691	775	1,690	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
North Carolina	276	457	39	333	179	188	305	500	46	369	257	243
North Dakota	13	0	0	37	0	20	40	22	0	44	0	22
Ohio	1,383	990	209	1,895	818	1,092	1,576	1,130	236	1,961	851	1,069
Oklahoma	167	84	19	107	105	53	212	93	15	125	123	87
Oregon	189	232	57	153	173	61	206	280	57	173	212	73
Pennsylvania	893	519	55	1,244	301	480	864	564	64	1,356	296	465
Rhode Island	166	55	17	142	37	24	187	64	21	156	39	22
South Carolina	102	278	6	229	52	97	119	216	5	187	77	127
South Dakota	42	19	7	34	13	9	75	28	18	44	13	20
Tennessee	573	509	102	324	157	151	607	506	79	334	126	147
Texas	913	836	224	1,039	318	355	1,224	933	337	1,134	395	521
Utah	187	69	40	92	85	40	258	100	52	121	98	35
Vermont	27	9	0	46	7	3	33	13	2	49	7	3
Virginia	195	350	56	335	167	134	158	364	40	313	184	138
Washington	812	334	130	282	178	123	876	332	124	317	180	192
West Virginia	86	95	15	127	63	23	79	92	15	170	58	27
Wisconsin	443	315	159	679	262	231	590	375	188	724	303	318
Wyoming	127	26	5	35	31	18	98	34	5	38	33	21

Source: Department of Labor. [1] Includes data for trades not shown separately. [2] Totals include an estimate for New York.
[3] Data not available. [4] Covers brick, stone, and tile workers; cement masons; and plasterers.

Construction Legislation

Authorization to Construct the Washita River Basin Reclamation Project, Oklahoma. (Public Law 419, approved February 25, 1956.)

This law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to construct, operate, and maintain the Washita multiple-purpose reclamation project in Oklahoma. It also authorizes an appropriation of $40,600,000, plus additional amounts to take care of increases that may occur in the costs of construction, and for the operation and maintenance of the works to be constructed.

The cost of the project is tentatively allocated by the Bureau of Reclamation as follows: For reimbursable items--$11,378,000 to irrigation, and $12,408,000 to municipal water supply. The amount to be repaid by farmers for irrigation purposes would be returned within 55 years, exclusive of the construction and development period. Municipal water payments would extend 50 years, or until the irrigation allocation had been repaid. Allocations to flood control ($15,417,000), fish and wildlife ($839,000), and recreation ($550,000) would not be reimbursable.

Authorization to Construct the Ventura River Reclamation Project, California. (Public Law 423, approved March 1, 1956.)

P.L. 423 authorizes construction of the Ventura River reclamation project in California by the Secretary of the Interior. The Ventura project is a multiple-purpose development, principally to provide water for irrigation and for municipal and industrial uses.

This law also authorizes the appropriation of $27,600,000, plus necessary amounts for any increase that may occur in construction costs, and to provide for the operation and maintenance of the works to be constructed. Of this amount, $26,722,000 will be reimbursable (tentatively allocated by the Bureau of Reclamation as follows: $15,319,000 to irrigation, and $11,403,000 to municipal and industrial water supply); $778,000 is being contributed by the Ventura River Municipal Water District. The $169,000 allocated to recreational facilities would be nonreimbursable. The repayment period for the reimbursable costs is 40 years, after a 10-year development period for irrigation.

Modification of Existing Projects for Great Lakes Connecting Channels. (Public Law 434, approved March 21, 1956.)

This law authorizes the modification of the existing project for the Great Lakes connecting channels above Lake Erie, to provide for the further deepening and improvement of the channels in St. Marys River, Straits of Mackinac, St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, and Detroit River, to accommodate ocean-going vessels that will use the St. Lawrence Seaway, as well as the largest vessels of the present-day Great Lakes fleet. The modification, estimated by the Corps of Engineers to cost $110,327,000 for new work and $200,000 annually for maintenance, would increase the minimum channel depth from 25 to 27 feet and would provide a maximum channel depth of 30 feet. It also provides for a cutoff channel in Canada at Southeast Bend, St. Clair River, if found to be feasible, at an estimated additional cost to the United States of $5,491,000 for new work and $10,000 annually for maintenance.

Construction Regulations

VA Announced Reduction in Waiting Period for VA Direct Home Loan Applicants to Secure Private Financing Under the VHMC Program. (Veterans Administration press release issued March 16, 1956.)

The Veterans Administration announced that, effective March 19, 1956, the time allowed for Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program (VHMCP) committees to secure private financing for VA direct home loan applicants would be reduced from 45 calendar days to 20 working days. The new order was designed to speed up the processing of applications for direct Government home loans, which are made only to veterans who are unable to obtain private mortgage financing.

Loans secured for veterans from private lenders through the facilities of the VHMCP are VA-guaranteed loans bearing the same interest rate as VA direct loans--4-½ percent on the unpaid balance per annum.

VA Announced Change in Procedures for Handling Home Loan Applications from Veterans in Rural Areas. (Veterans Administration press release issued March 28, 1956.)

In order to further expedite direct VA home loan processing, the Veterans Administration announced on March 28, 1956, that veterans unable to secure private mortgage financing in rural areas and small communities where credit is scarce, should apply directly to VA regional offices, rather than to VHMCP regional committees. Veterans applying to VA will be sent a VHMCP home loan application and their names will be placed on a register in the VA regional office so that a follow-up may be made of their application and a priority established for the individual veteran.

Previously, VA direct loan applicants were referred first to VHMCP regional committees for assistance in getting private lenders to make Government-backed home loans. Then, as at present, should the VHMCP committees be unable to locate a private lender within the stipulated period, the veteran would be eligible to apply to VA for a direct Government loan. (For a description of the VHMCP, see "The Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program," in Construction Review, December 1955 issue, page 4.)

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